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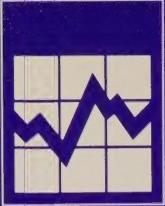
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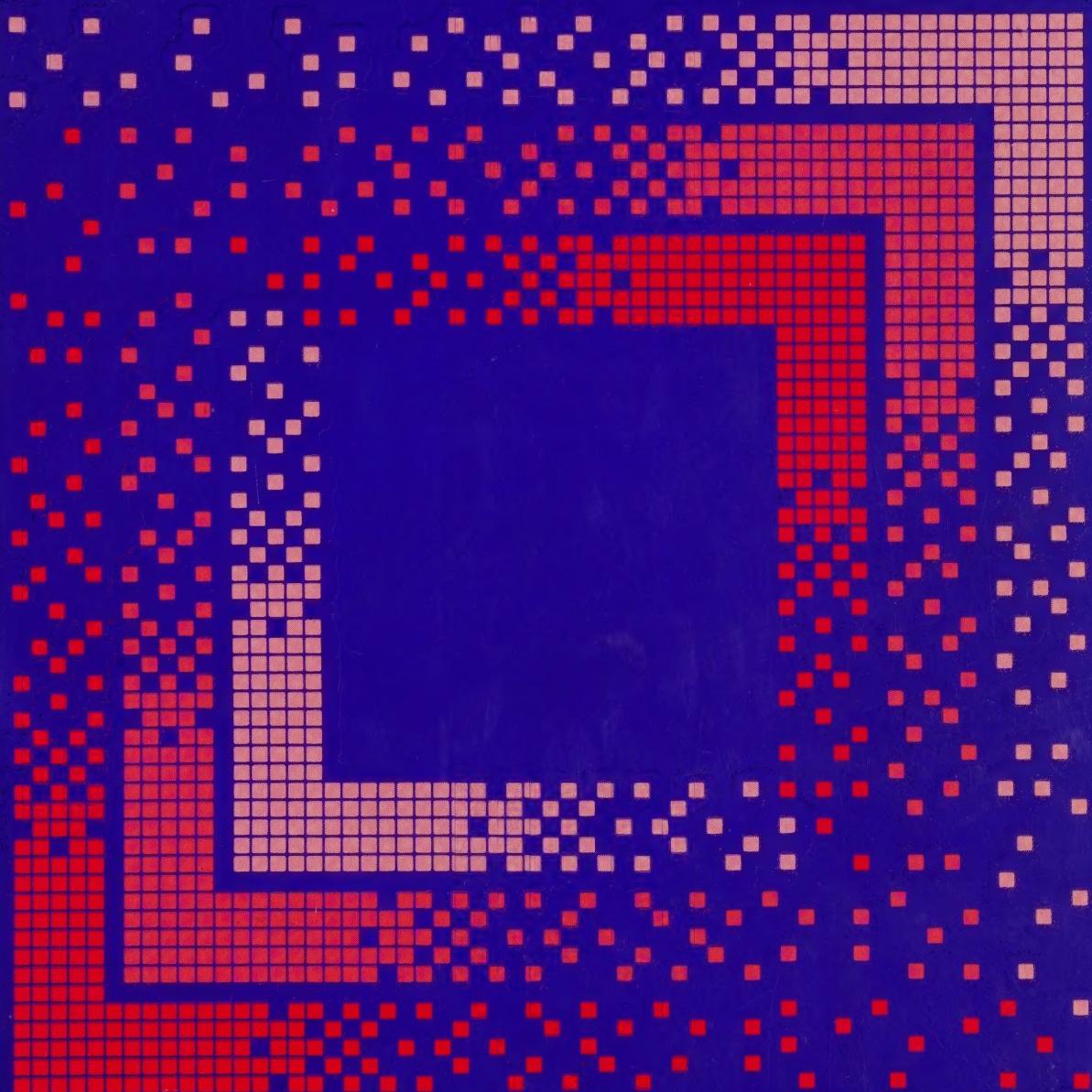


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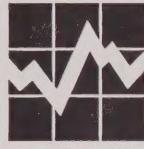
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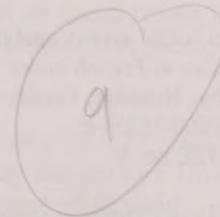
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9

# Family and friends



**Susan A. McDaniel, University of Alberta  
with the assistance of Carol Strike**

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The objectives of the International Year of the Family are to "highlight the importance of families; increase a better understanding of their functions and problems; . . . and focus attention upon the right and responsibilities of all family members".

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## PREFACE

The General Social Survey has two principal objectives: first, to gather data on social trends in order to monitor changes in Canadian society over time, and second, to provide information on specific social issues of current or emerging interest.

The fifth annual cycle of the General Social Survey, which collected data January through March 1990, concentrated on family and friends. This survey was sponsored in part by the Seniors Directorate (Health Canada), Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the Province of Ontario.

In recognition of the broad scope of the data being produced by the General Social Survey, as well as the wide range of expected users from governments, universities, institutes, business, media and the general public, the project has placed particular emphasis on access to the survey database. The project produced a public use microdata file that allows researchers to carry out their own analysis of this rich database. The file was released in June 1991 and can be obtained by contacting the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada. A number of articles based on the data have been published in **Canadian Social Trends and Perspectives on Labour and Income**. This report provides a more detailed analysis on various aspects of this survey.

Susan McDaniel of the University of Alberta was responsible for the overall structure of the publication and followed the format used in previous General Social Analysis Series reports. The first draft of this report, with the exception of the Results Sections of Chapters 5 and 6, was written by S. McDaniel. The first draft of Chapter 5 was written from analysis completed by Tamara Knighton and Carol Strike. Josephine Stanic, the manager responsible for the 1990 General Social Survey, prepared the analysis and first draft of Chapter 6. Carol Strike prepared the final version of the entire report with the guidance of Doug Norris.

Ivan P. Fellegi  
Chief Statistician of Canada

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Many people from organizations outside Statistics Canada took time to review earlier drafts of this report and their contributions are appreciated.

This publication is also the culmination of the efforts of many people from within Statistics Canada. The following personnel assisted in conducting the survey and/or preparation of the publication: Fil McLeod, Diane Roeske (Survey Operations); Pierre David, David Paton (Social Survey Methods); Judi Raymond, Kevin Workman (Census Operations); Janet Che-Alford, Judy Cotterill, David Craig, Gérard Cusson, Kim Kelly-Kennedy, Claire Larocque, Jennifer Meester, Douglas A. Norris, Joanne Pilon, Gordon Priest, Edward Praught, Colette Richard, Jeanne Sarault, Cheryl Sarazin (Housing, Family and Social Statistics).

The following people assisted Susan McDaniel at the University of Alberta: Allison McKinnon, Sherri Peters and Erica van Roosmalen.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT

The fifth General Social Survey (GSS), completed by Statistics Canada in the first months of 1990, was developed around the general topic **Family and friends**. A total of 13,495 individuals were surveyed, representing the non-institutionalized population (aged 15 and over) of the ten provinces. The response rate for this telephone survey was 76% of eligible households.

Respondents in the 1990 GSS were questioned about a range of topics, including: aspects of the respondent's relationships with parents and grandparents, brothers, sisters and friends; relationships with their children, their children's birth history, type of child care provided and contact with children living outside the household; fertility intentions; household help shared by persons living together, and household help given and received by persons not living in the household; physical and emotional support; marriage and common-law history; satisfaction measures; and background socio-economic questions for classification purposes.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Marriage and Common-law Unions

- Between 1984 and 1990, the proportion of Canadians who reported that they were currently married declined from 63% to 58%. However, 9% of Canadians were living common law in 1990, up from 6% in 1984, so that overall, there was a small drop in the proportion living in a marital union (69% in 1984 and 67% in 1990).
- Twenty-eight percent of Canadians in 1990 reported that they had lived in a common-law union at some time in their lives. This was up significantly from 16% in 1984. The greatest increases were among those aged 40-49, more than doubling from 10% in

1984 to 24% in 1990 and among those aged 30-39 almost doubling from 21% to 40%.

- Among currently-married Canadians in 1990, 19% had lived common law with their current spouse before they were legally married. More than a third of those aged 18-29 (37%) had done so, with 28% of those aged 30-39 reporting the same.
- In 1990, among persons aged 40-49, 27% of first marriages had ended in separation or divorce, up from 19% in 1984. Of those in that age group whose first marriage had ended in divorce, separation or widowhood, one-third were remarried and one-fifth were living common law at the time of the survey. As well, nearly half remained without a partner.
- Most Canadian men (71%) who had never been married expected to marry at some time in their lives. Never-married women were slightly less confident in their expectations, with 67% expecting to marry. The young were the most optimistic - 80% of those aged 18-29 expected to marry some day. Among this age group, only 10% did not expect to marry and another 10% did not know.

#### Child Bearing and Birth Intentions

- The average age at the birth of first child has risen since 1984 for both men and women. It rose from 25.8 years in 1984 to 26.6 years in 1990 among men and from 23.1 years to 23.5 years among women.
- Among Canadians aged 15-44 with one child, 26% said that they or their partner were unable to have more children (the majority by choice), compared with 51% of people with two children and 60% with three or more children.

- Of young Canadians aged 15-24 who have not had children, almost 90% indicated they intend to have children and the majority intend to have at least two. Only 5% of this age group indicated that they did not intend to have children, while 6% were unsure of their intentions.

## Sharing Housework

- Although women continue do the majority of housework overall, young couples tend to share it more equally. For example, among women less than 35 years of age 13% reported that their partners shared meal preparation. Among women aged 35 and over 5% reported that their partners shared meal preparation. Comparable figures for meal clean-up were 16% and 9%, and 15% versus 7% for house cleaning and laundry. Interestingly, more men than women tended to report the housework was shared equally; for example, 12% of men, compared with 8% of women, said they shared meal preparation. Furthermore, for all age groups, common-law men shared in the work more than married men.
- While women continue to be responsible for meal preparation, meal clean-up and house cleaning and laundry, three-quarters of men (married and common law) said that they were solely responsible for house maintenance and outside work. In comparison, women reported that 67% of their partners were solely responsible.

## Helping Family and Friends

- In 1990, three-quarters of Canadians said they had provided unpaid help (i.e. housework, house maintenance, transportation, child care or financial support) to someone outside their household at least once during the 12 months prior to the survey. Canadians were most likely to provide help with transportation (50%), followed by house maintenance and outside work (32%), child care (32%), financial support (25%) and housework (18%).
- Exchanges of informal support occurred across all generations. For example, among those aged 15-24, 80% reported providing support and 77% reported receiving it. On the other hand, 54% of seniors aged 65 and over reported providing

support, while 52% reported receiving help. Friends were most likely to be both the providers and receivers of help.

## Family Contacts

- More than one out of two Canadians (55%) whose parents lived together, lived within 50 km of their parents. An additional 15% lived within 50-200 km. At the other extreme, 15% were more than 1,000 km from their parents.
- More than two-thirds of Canadians whose parents lived together saw their parents at least once a month. If both parents were alive, but not living together, contact was somewhat less, particularly for fathers — only 39% saw their father, compared with 61% who saw their mother at least once a month.
- As expected, distance is a big factor in determining the frequency of contact. For example, 80% of people living within 10 km of their mother saw her at least once a week, compared with 24% of those 51-100 km away, and approximately 2% that lived further than 100 km.
- Overall, 7% of Canadians had contact with at least one of their brothers or sisters daily and another 27% saw them weekly. Canadians reported a greater frequency of contacts with their brothers or sisters by letter or phone than by personal visits. However, women were more frequent letter writers or phone callers than men: 46% of women versus 33% of men had letter or phone contacts at least once a week. Only 10% had not seen their brothers or sisters within the past 12 months.
- In 1990, approximately one half of the population aged 15-44 had at least one living grandparent. Nearly 40% of Canadians saw at least one of their grandparents, a minimum of once a month. Only 20% had not seen any of their grandparents within the past year.

## Seniors

- Despite the high mobility of the Canadian population, more than two-thirds of seniors aged 65 and over lived within 50 km of one of their children. Nearly 80% lived less than 100 km away from at least one child.

- Seniors also had much contact with their children — 57% saw at least one of their children a minimum of once a week and an additional 21% saw them at least once a month. Seniors had much less contact with siblings. Only 23% saw a sibling at least once a week, while another 18% of those aged 65 and over had monthly contact.
- Forty-five percent of married/common-law men aged 65 and over, compared with 36% of women said they would turn to their spouse or partner for emotional support when they felt down or depressed. Married/common-law women of this age group were more likely than men to turn to relatives and friends (31% and 12%, respectively, for women versus 19% and 5%, respectively, for men). Unmarried men aged 65 and over (including those widowed, divorced and never married), would turn to relatives (39%) and friends (28%). Women were more likely to turn to relatives (53%) than friends (18%).

## 1.2 FEATURES OF THE REPORT

### 1.2.1 Style and Themes of the Report

All chapters in this report present results using consistent classifications of sex, age, income and province. As well, additional independent variables are examined in several chapters. For the purpose of this report, the term "adults" refers to those aged 15 and over. Throughout the report, differences were not tested for significance. Because of the large sample size, differences which were large enough to be meaningful from a subject matter point of view were likely to be statistically significant. The authors have focused on such differences.

The regular sample size of approximately 10,000 respondents was augmented by two oversamples of respondents. The Seniors Secretariat (Health Canada) sponsored a supplementary sample of approximately 2,000 elderly Canadians (aged 65 and over) which was derived from the Labour Force Survey. As well, the province of Ontario sponsored an increase in the sample in that province. The total sample size is therefore large enough to allow extensive analysis at the national level.

### 1.2.2 Organization of the Report

In this report, Chapter 2 examines trends in marriage, common-law unions, remarriage and dissolution of unions including comparisons with the 1984 Family History Survey. Also, marriage/remarriage expectations are analyzed. In Chapter 3, data on children (natural, step and adopted) are evaluated. As well, fertility intentions are considered. Chapter 4 deals with living arrangements and satisfaction with the family. Data concerning the division of household labour and social support are analyzed in Chapter 5. Contacts with family and friends, including frequency, nature and satisfaction with contact, are examined in Chapter 6. For Chapter 7, many of the topics covered in other chapters are re-examined with a focus on seniors.

## 1.3 OVERVIEW OF THE GSS PROGRAM AND CYCLE 5

### 1.3.1 Objectives

The General Social Survey (GSS) was initiated by Statistics Canada in order to reduce gaps in the statistical information system, particularly in relation to socio-economic trends. Many of these gaps cannot be filled through existing data sources or vehicles because of the range or periodicity of the information required, or the lack of capacity of relevant vehicles.

The GSS has two principal objectives: first, to gather data on trends in Canadian society over time, and second, to provide information on specific policy issues of interest. To meet these objectives, the GSS was established as a continuing program with a single survey cycle each year.

### 1.3.2 Content

The GSS gathers a wide variety of data to meet different kinds of unmet needs for a very broad spectrum of users. To achieve the objectives outlined above, the GSS has three components: Core, Focus and Classification.

Core content is directed primarily at monitoring long-term social trends by measurement of temporal changes in living conditions and well-being. Main topics within Core content include health, time use, personal risk, education and work, and family and social support. As all Core content topics cannot be treated adequately in each survey cycle, a single cycle covers a specific topic, which recurs on a periodic basis. The Core content of the 1990 General Social Survey, the fifth cycle, was family and friends.

Focus content is aimed at meeting the second objective of the GSS, namely, to provide information touching directly on a specific social problem or policy issue, such as retirement. In comparison to Core content, Focus is more specific to immediate policy issues. For the fifth cycle of the GSS, there was no Focus content.

Classification content provides the means of delineating population groups and is used in the analysis of Core and Focus data. Examples of classification variables are age, gender, education and income.

Because of the broad scope of the survey, this report can only present an overview of the data collected and indicate the potential of the data base. A public use microdata tape is available to facilitate further analysis. To purchase this tape or for further information, please contact:

General Social Survey  
Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division  
Statistics Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0T6  
(Telephone: (613) 951-8644).

### 1.3.3 Sample Design

The target population of the 1990 GSS consisted of all people aged 15 years and over living in the ten provinces of Canada, with the exception of full-time residents of institutions.

The population was sampled using random digit dialling (RDD) techniques and interviewed by telephone, thus excluding from the sample those people living in households without telephones. These households account for less than 2% of the target population. The sample was allocated to provinces in proportion to the square root of the size of their populations, and to strata within provinces in

proportion to their population. As well, Health Canada sponsored a supplementary sample of the elderly (aged 65 and over) which was derived from the Labour Force Survey and the Province of Ontario sponsored an increase in the sample in that province.

The total sample size of 13,495 people is large enough to allow extensive analysis at the national level, some analysis at a regional level, but only very limited analysis at a provincial level.

Appendix I contains additional information on the sample design and estimation procedures.

### 1.3.4 Data Collection and Forms

Data collection took place between January and March 1990. Data were collected from 13,495 respondents aged 15 and over. There were 4,830 non-responses, for a total sample size of 18,325. Copies of the questionnaires used are shown in Appendix II.

Data were collected on two forms. The Control Form (GSS 5-1) was used to ensure that the telephone number reached belonged to an eligible household, to record some demographic data for each household member (age, sex, marital status and relationship to a reference person) and to randomly select a respondent aged 15 or over. Only one respondent was selected per household. The Family and Friends Questionnaire (GSS 5-2), composed of the Core content questions and the Classification content questions, was then administered. No proxy responses to the questionnaire were accepted.

### 1.3.5 Data Processing and Estimation

Data capture personnel in the Statistics Canada regional offices keyed data directly from the survey questionnaires into minicomputers. Following the interviews, all questionnaires were captured and put through a computer edit allowing the interviewers to resolve problems (e.g. improper skip patterns or key punch errors). These data were then transmitted electronically to Ottawa. All survey records were subjected to an extensive computer edit. Partial non-responses, flow pattern errors and abnormally high or low responses were identified. Missing or incorrect data were recoded as "not stated" or, in a very few cases, imputed from other areas in the same questionnaire.

Each person in a probability sample can be considered to represent a number of others in the surveyed population. In recognition of this, and utilizing sample design information, each survey record was assigned a weight that reflected the number of individuals in the population that the record represented. These weights were adjusted for non-response and for the differences between the target population and the surveyed population using population counts for the target population. The estimates presented in this report were calculated using the adjusted weights.

More information on the sampling and estimation procedures can be found in Appendix I.

### 1.3.6 Data Limitations

It is important to recognize that the figures which appear in this report are estimates based on data collected from a small fraction of the population (roughly one person in 2,000) and are subject to error. The error can be divided into two components: sampling error and non-sampling error.

Sampling error is the difference between an estimate derived from the sample and the one that would have been obtained from a census that used the same procedures to collect data from every person in the population. The size of the sampling error can be estimated from the survey results and an indication of the magnitude of this error is given for the estimates in this report. Figure 1.1 shows the relationship between the size of an estimate and its sampling error (expressed as the coefficient of variation: the ratio of the standard deviation to the estimate). If the estimated sampling error is greater than 33% of the estimate, it is considered too unreliable to publish and the symbol '--' is printed in table cells where this occurs. In terms of Figure 1.1, all estimates below point (A) on the estimate axis fall into this "unreliable" category. Although not considered too unreliable to publish, estimates with an estimated error between 16.5% and 33% of the related estimate should be "qualified" and used with caution. All estimates between points (A) and (B) on the estimate axis of Figure 1.1 fall into this "qualified" category. All estimates above point (B) on the estimate axis can be published without qualification.

All other types of errors, such as coverage, response, processing, and non-response, are non-sampling errors.

Many of these errors are difficult to identify and quantify.

Coverage errors arise when there are differences between the target population and the surveyed population. Households without telephones represent a part of the target population that was excluded from the surveyed population. To the extent that this excluded population differs from the rest of the target population, the estimates will be biased. Since these exclusions are small, one would expect the biases introduced to be small. However, since there are correlations between a number of questions asked on this survey and the groups excluded, the biases may be more significant than the small size of the groups would suggest.

Individuals residing in institutions were excluded from the surveyed population. The effect of this exclusion is greatest for people aged 65 and over, for whom it approaches 9%.

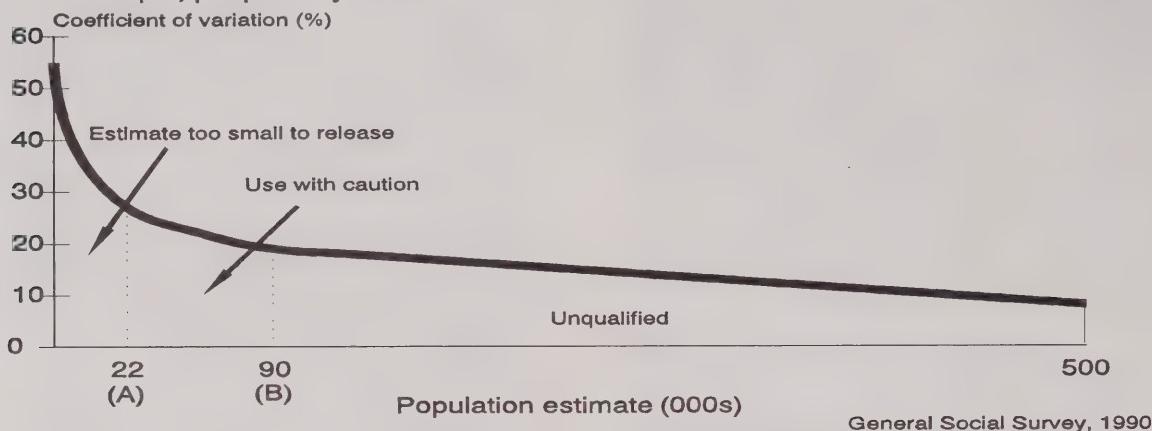
In a similar way, to the extent that the non-responding households and persons differ from the rest of the sample, the estimates will be biased. The overall response rate for the survey was 76%. Non-response could occur at several stages in this survey. There were two stages of information collection: at the household level and at the individual level. As is shown in Figure 1.2, about 14% of the non-response occurred at the household level (see also Figures 1.3 and 1.4). Non-response also occurs at the level of individual questions. For most questions, the response rate was high and, in tables, the non-responses appear under the heading "not stated".

While refusal to answer specific questions was very low, accuracy of recall and ability to answer some questions completely can be expected to affect some of the results presented in the subsequent chapters. Awareness of exact question wording (Appendix II) will help the reader interpret the survey results.

Since the survey is cross-sectional, caution is required in making causal inferences about the association between variables. Observed associations may be a reflection of differences between cohorts, period effects, differences between age groups or a combination of these factors.

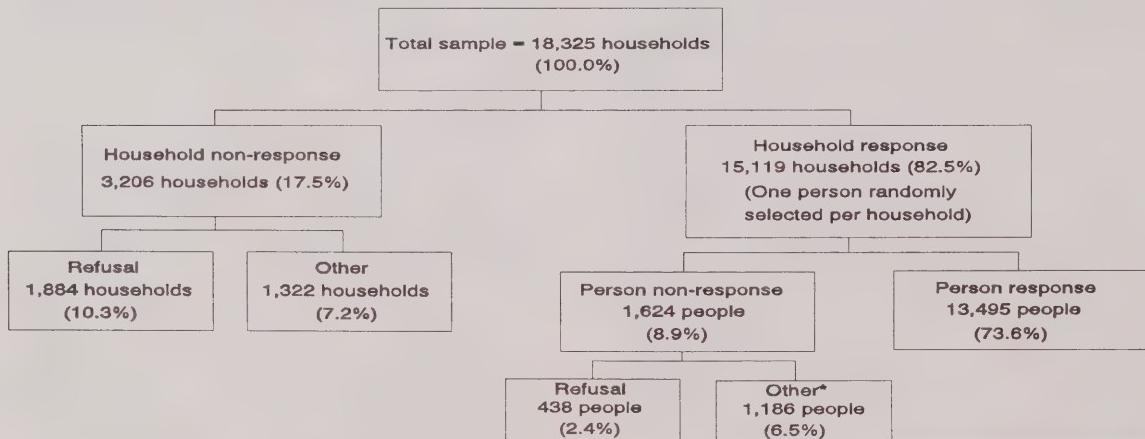
**FIGURE 1.1**  
Estimated sampling variability by size of estimate, Canada

**Core sample, people 15 years and over**



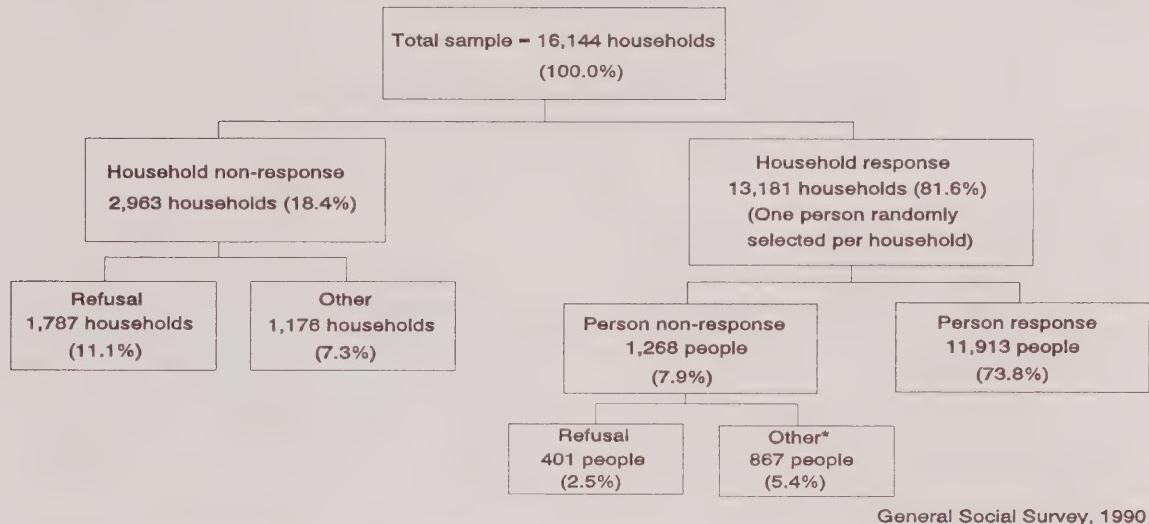
**Note:** Only coefficients of variation (c.v.) applicable to estimates for Canada as a whole are shown in Figure 1.1. The difference between the true population size and the estimated population size (expressed as a percentage of the estimate) will be less than the c.v. 68% of the time, less than twice the c.v. 95% of the time, and less than three times the c.v. 99% of the time.

**FIGURE 1.2 - Total sample**  
Response magnitudes and rates



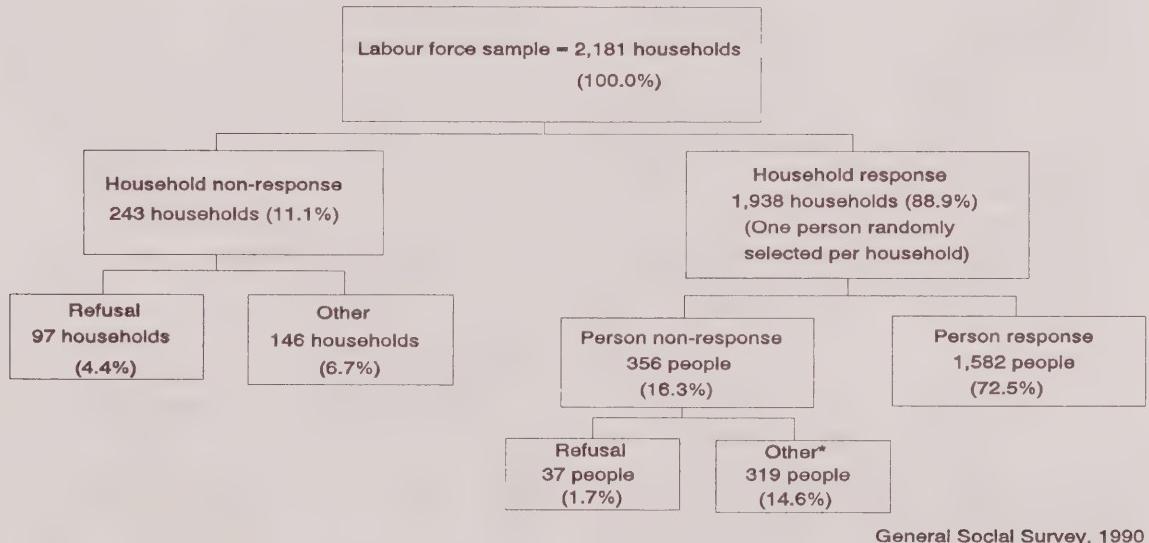
\* Other includes cases where the interview could not be completed for some other reason (786); where the person interviewed was ineligible (13); and where there were insufficient data on the questionnaire to justify keeping them (387).

**FIGURE 1.3 - Non-labour force sample**  
**Response magnitudes and rates**



\* Other includes cases where the interview could not be completed for some other reason (581); where the person interviewed was ineligible (13); and where there were insufficient data on the questionnaire to justify keeping them (273).

**FIGURE 1.4 - Labour force sample**  
**Response magnitudes and rates**



\* Other includes cases where the interview could not be completed for some other reason (205); and where there were insufficient data on the questionnaire to justify keeping them (114).



## CHAPTER 2

### UNION FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION

#### 2.1 METHODS

For this section, data were drawn from Sections H and J of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire. Section H included detailed questions regarding legal marriages, current marital status, divorces and separations, as well as marital histories and the respondent's and partner's marital status prior to their marriage and whether they lived common law before marrying. Never-married respondents were asked whether they thought they would ever marry (H37), and divorced and widowed respondents were asked whether they thought they would ever remarry (H38). Data on common-law unions, both current and past, were drawn from Section J which included questions on common-law union histories, dates of the unions and ages of partners. Respondents were asked to specify the reason for dissolution of the union (i.e. separation/divorce vs. death). In this chapter, marriage refers to legal marriage (i.e. including married and separated but not divorced) unless otherwise stated. Since comparisons were made with the 1984 Family History Survey, all analyses in this chapter were based on the population aged 18-64.

#### 2.2 RESULTS

##### 2.2.1 Current Legal Marital Status

Between 1984 and 1990, the proportion of Canadians aged 18-64 who reported that they were currently married declined (Table 2.1). While 66% of Canadians reported they were currently married in 1984, only 61% reported the same status in 1990. This decline in legal marriages was accompanied by a slight increase in the number of individuals reporting that they were divorced: from 5% in 1984 to 7% in 1990. The proportion who reported widowhood remained stable (2%).

Men were more likely than women to say they had never married and less likely to say that they were divorced in 1984 and 1990. Examination of trends revealed that fewer men were married in 1990 (59%) than in 1984 (66%), and slightly more men had never married (33% vs. 29%, respectively). As well, the proportion of men who reported that they were divorced doubled from 3% in 1984 to 6% in 1990. For women, there was a small change in the proportion who reported that they were married (66% in 1984 vs. 63% in 1990) or never married (24% in 1984 and 26% in 1990). There was a slight increase among women who reported being divorced from 6% (1984) to 8% (1990). Overall, the proportion of men (1%) and women (3%) reporting that they were widowed was stable.

Comparison by age revealed that at younger ages, more Canadians reported being never married in 1990 than in 1984. For example, in 1984, 60% of Canadians aged 18-29 reported this status, compared with 69% in 1990. Among those aged 30-39, the comparable proportions were 13% and 21%, respectively. While the proportion of younger Canadians reporting that they had never married increased, the proportion who reported being legally married decreased. Specifically, among those aged 18-29, the percentage reporting that they were married declined from 38% in 1984 to 30% in 1990. For Canadians aged 30-39, the decrease was from 79% to 70%, respectively.

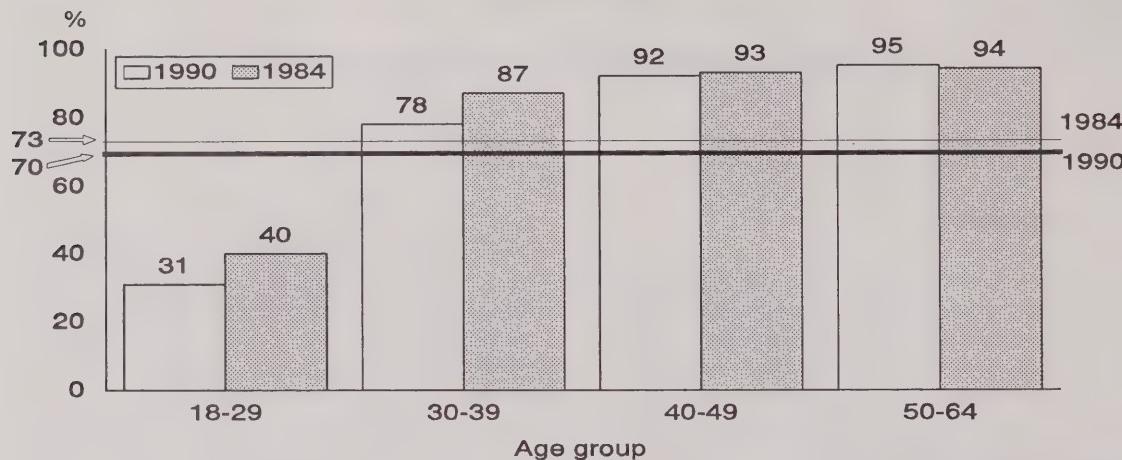
##### 2.2.2 Marriages

###### *Trends in legal marriages*

Overall, the proportion of the population aged 18-64 who have ever been legally married at some time in their lives declined from 73% (1984) to 70% (1990) (Figure 2.1), perhaps reflecting the increase in

**FIGURE 2.1**

Proportion of ever-married population aged 18-64 by age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>



General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup>Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

common-law unions (discussed in Section 2.2.3). This decline was greatest among Canadians aged 18-29 (40% to 31%, respectively) and among those aged 30-39 (87% to 78%, respectively). For those aged 40-49, the decline was marginal, from 93% to 92%. However, there was a marginal increase among people aged 50-64 from 94% to 95%.

The decline in reports of ever being married was greater for men than women (Table 2.2). In 1984, 71% of men had been married at least once, while in 1990, only 66% of men reported being legally married at sometime. For women, 76% reported in 1984 that they had been legally married at least once and 74% reported the same in 1990.

Consistent with the overall age and gender trends, there was a greater decline in the proportion who reported ever being married among young men than young women. Specifically, for men aged 18-29, 34% (1984) and 25% (1990) reported at least one legal marriage. For women, the comparable proportions were 45% and 38%, respectively. Among those aged 30-39, the decline was from 85% to 74% for men and from 88% to 82% for women.

#### *Age differences between spouses*

Women tend to marry older men. In fact, 78% of married women were married to an older man,

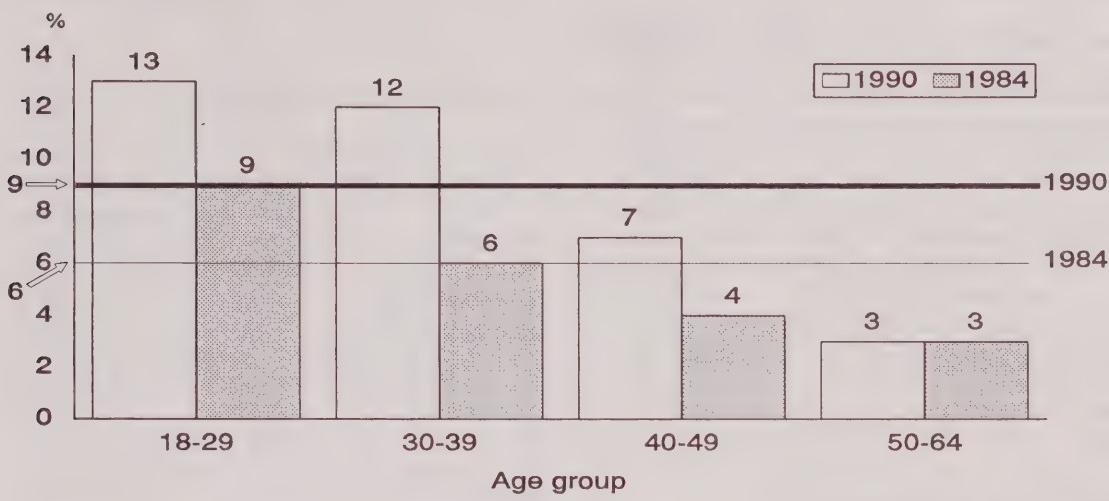
whereas only 19% of men were married to an older woman (Table 2.3). Most women (47%) married someone who was no more than three years older, while most men (52%) married women no more than three years younger. For both men and women, with increasing age, the proportion reporting an age difference in excess of three years increased. For example, 83% of men aged 18-29 were married to a woman within three years of their own age, while the same was true for only 54% of men aged 50-64. Among women, 67% of those aged 18-29 were married to someone within three years of their own age, compared with 59% of women aged 50-64.

#### *Marriage-remarriage*

Among currently married Canadians, 86% reported their marriage to be the first marriage for both themselves and their spouse (data not shown). For another 4%, their current marriage was their first marriage but a remarriage for their spouse. In addition, 5% reported a remarriage for themselves and a first marriage for their spouse. Only 4% reported a remarriage for both themselves and their spouse. These proportions varied little by age or gender.

## FIGURE 2.2

Proportion of population aged 18-64 currently living common law by age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>



General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

### 2.2.3 Common-law Unions

#### *Current common-law unions*

In 1990, 9% of Canadians were living common law up from 6% in 1984 (Figure 2.2). For both genders, the proportion who reported they were currently living common law increased from 1984 to 1990 (Table 2.4).

Among men aged 18-29, the proportion living common law rose from 7% in 1984 to 11% in 1990 and for men aged 30-39, the proportion rose from 6% to 13%, respectively. For women aged 18-29, the proportion living in a common-law union increased from 10% in 1984 to 15% in 1990, and among women aged 30-39, the comparable percentages were 7% and 11%, respectively.

#### *Marital status*

In 1990, 63% of people currently living in a common-law union had never been married, while the remaining 37% were divorced, separated or widowed (Table 2.5). As would be expected given age trends in marriage, more younger than older Canadians currently in a common-law union had never been married. While 91% of the population aged 18-29 living common law had never married, this was true for only 57% of those

aged 30-39. At older ages, the vast majority living common law had previously been married.

#### *Ever in a common-law union*

In 1990, 28% of Canadians reported that they had lived in a common-law union at some time in their lives, up from 16% in 1984 (Table 2.6). The largest increase in the proportion reporting a common-law union occurred among those aged 30-39, from 21% (1984) to 40% (1990). Among people aged 40-49, the proportion rose from 10% (1984) to 24% (1990). For the age group 18-29, the proportion rose from 23% to 33%.

In 1990, similar proportions of men and women reported having been in a common-law union (28%). However, more women aged 18-29 reported a common-law union than did men for both 1984 and 1990. In 1990, 38% of women aged 18-29 were currently in or had been in a common-law union, up from 27% in 1984. For men, the comparable proportions were 27% and 20%, respectively. In 1984, 22% of men aged 30-39 had ever lived common law, while in 1990, 41% reported the same. Among women aged 30-39, 21% (1984) and 39% (1990) had been in a common-law union. For men aged 40-49, the proportion increased 16% from 10% (1984) to

26% (1990). Among women aged 40-49, the proportion increased from 10% (1984) to 21% (1990).

#### *Number of common-law unions*

The proportion of Canadians who reported having lived in only one common-law union increased from 15% in 1984 to 21% in 1990 (Table 2.6). For men, the proportion increased from 14% to 20%, respectively; for women, the proportion increased from 16% to 22%, respectively. Over this same time period, the proportion of people reporting two or more common-law unions increased substantially. In 1984, 2% of Canadians reported having been in two or more common-law unions, while in 1990, 7% reported the same. The largest increase for reports of multiple unions was among those aged 30-39. Among people in this age group, the proportion reporting two or more common-law unions increased from 2% (1984) to 13% (1990).

#### *Common-law unions before marriage*

In 1990, 19% of currently married Canadians had lived common law with their spouse before marrying (Table 2.7). The common-law experience among the married varied by age group. While 37% of people aged 18-29 and 28% of those aged 30-39 had lived common law before marriage, only 12% in the age group 40-49 and 4% of people aged 50-64 had done the same.

Overall, about the same proportion of men (18%) and women (19%) had lived common law before marriage; however, differences by age group were apparent.

While 41% of women aged 18-29 had lived common law with their current spouse before marriage, only 31% of men of the same age had done so.

#### *Union formation*

While the proportion of Canadians who reported that they had been married at some time in their lives declined in recent years, the proportion who had ever lived common law increased. Combining both legal marriages and common-law unions reveals that since 1984, the proportion of individuals entering into some form of a union has increased slightly. In 1990, 80% of Canadians reported that they had ever been married or lived common law, up from 78% in 1984 (Text Table 2.1). Comparison by age and gender reveals that for both men and women of all ages, the

proportion who reported some type of union remained the same or increased slightly since 1984. What this reveals is that although fewer people are reporting legal marriages, they are not remaining single but rather opting for a different form of union.

#### **2.2.4 Marriage Expectations**

Most men (71%) in 1991, who had never been married expected to marry at some time in their lives (Table 2.8). Another 15% were uncertain of their intentions, while 14% indicated they did not expect to marry. Fewer never-married women (67%) than men expected to marry. Another 19% of women did not expect to marry and 14% were unsure. Comparison by age group revealed that among the never married, more younger than older people expected to marry. For example, 80% of people aged 18-29 expected to marry, while only 20% of people aged 40-49 had the same expectation. Fully, 67% of never-married people aged 50-64 said they did not expect to marry. With increasing age, the proportion of never-married Canadians who reported that they did not know if they would ever marry rose, from 10% among those aged 18-29 to 44% among those aged 40-49.

For all age groups, more never-married men than women expected a future union. For example, 81% of never-married men aged 18-29 expected to marry, while only 79% of women of the same age expected to marry. Among those aged 30-39, 56% of men and 46% of women expected to marry at some time. Conversely, 51% of women aged 40-49 and 74% of women aged 50-64 did not think that they would ever marry. For men, the comparable proportions were 25% and 63%, respectively. For both genders, with increasing age, the proportion of the never married who reported that they did not know if they would ever marry increased. Among those aged 40-49, 47% of men and 40% of women were unsure of a future union.

#### **2.2.5 Union Dissolution**

In 1990, 17% of first marriages had ended in divorce, compared with only 11% in 1984 (Table 2.9). For both 1990 and 1984, a further 4% had ended in separation. For people aged 40-49, the percentage of first marriages ending in divorce was 22%, up from 15% in 1984. For people aged 50-64, the proportion of first marriages ending in divorce increased to 17%

**TEXT TABLE 2.1**

Proportion of population aged 18-64 who have ever lived in a union (married or common law) by gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Total unions 1990/1984	Ever lived in a union (married or common law)					
		Yes		No		Not stated	
		1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)							
<b>Both genders</b>							
All age groups	100	80	78	19	22	--	--
18-29	100	51	51	49	49	--	--
30-39	100	90	91	10	9	--	--
40-49	100	95	94	5	6	--	--
50-64	100	96	94	4	5	--	--
<b>Men</b>							
All age groups	100	77	75	23	25	--	--
18-29	100	43	43	57	57	--	--
30-39	100	88	89	11	11	--	--
40-49	100	94	94	5	6	--	--
50-64	100	95	94	4	6	--	--
<b>Women</b>							
All age groups	100	84	81	16	19	--	--
18-29	100	59	59	41	41	--	--
30-39	100	92	92	8	8	--	--
40-49	100	96	94	4	6	--	--
50-64	100	97	95	3	5	--	--

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

General Social Survey, 1990

(1990) from 9% (1984). The proportion of marriages ending in divorce will probably be higher for younger people when they reach their older years. The 40% of marriages that end in divorce that is sometimes cited, is based on divorces per marriages occurring in a single year (Dumas and Lavoie, 1992:41), and does not represent the experience of any particular age group of the population.

In addition to divorce or separation, the death of a spouse is another source of marital dissolution. As expected, widowhood accounted for more dissolution at older ages. In fact, among those aged 50-64, 9% reported their spouse's death as the reason their marriage ended, a decline of two percentage points from 1984.

Women (77%) were less likely than men (83%) to report separation or divorce as the reason for dissolution of their first marriage (Table 2.10). However, women (20%) were more likely than men

(12%) to report death of a spouse as the reason. The largest discrepancy between men and women for reason for dissolution occurred for those aged 50-64. Among women in this age group, 54% reported separation or divorce and 41% the death of a spouse as the reason. For men, the comparable proportions were 74% and 23%, respectively.

*Average length of time between separation and divorce*

The average amount of time between separation and subsequent legal divorce was 2.7 years. Comparison by age and gender revealed some differences (Text Table 2.2). Among men and women aged 18-29, the average length of time was 1.7 and 1.5 years, respectively. For both genders aged 30-39, the average length of time between separation and divorce was 2.3 years. At ages 40-49, the mean duration was 2.6 years for men and 3.0 for women. Among those aged 50-64, the average duration was 3.0 years for

men and 3.9 years for women. Differences by age reflect, in part, changes in the divorce laws over the past three decades.

**TEXT TABLE 2.2**

Average duration of time between separation and subsequent legal divorce by gender and age group, ever-divorced population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990

Age group	Both genders		
	Men	Women	(Years)
All age groups	2.7	2.6	2.8
18-29	1.5	1.7	1.5
30-39	2.3	2.3	2.3
40-49	2.8	2.6	3.0
50-64	3.5	3.0	3.9

General Social Survey, 1990

### *Dissolution of common-law unions*

In 1990, about one-third (34%) of the population who had ever lived in a common-law union said their first union had ended in marriage, while 36% reported separation as the reason and 26% were still living in their first common-law union (Table 2.11). Only 1% reported death of a spouse or partner as the reason for dissolution. Regardless of age group, among Canadians reporting a first common-law union, just over one-third ended in separation. However, the proportion reporting that their first common-law union had resulted in marriage or that they were still living in this union varied by age. While 28% of people aged 18-29 ever in a first common-law union reported that this union had resulted in marriage, the same was true for 40% of people aged 30-39. In 1990, 33% of those aged 18-29 ever in a first common-law union reported that they were still in this union, compared with 22% of people aged 30-39.

The average length of a common-law union which ended in separation was 2.7 years (Text Table 2.3). As expected, the average length was shorter among people aged 18-29 years (1.9 years), than among people aged 50-64 (3.7 years). Although differences were small, the average length of a common-law union for women exceeded that for men, in all age groups except those aged 40-49.

**TEXT TABLE 2.3**

Average duration of first common-law union that ended in separation by gender and age group, population aged 18-64 ever living common law, Canada, 1990

Age group	Both genders		
	Men	Women	(Years)
All age groups	2.7	2.6	2.9
18-29	1.9	1.6	2.1
30-39	2.8	2.5	3.2
40-49	4.0	4.1	3.9
50-64	3.7	3.1	4.9

General Social Survey, 1990

### **2.2.6 Remarriage and Subsequent Union Formation**

In 1990, 75% of Canadians who had ever married were still married to their first spouse, 8% were married to someone else, 10% were currently divorced or separated and 2% were widowed (Table 2.12). Another 5% said they were currently living in a common-law union.

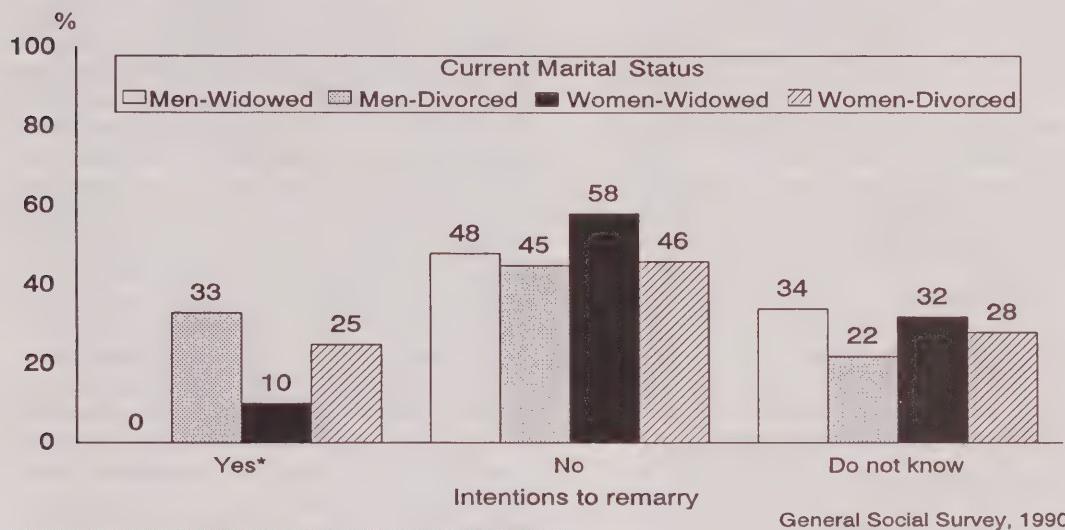
A larger proportion of men (77%) than women (73%) reported still being married to their first spouse. Proportionately, more women (12%) than men (8%) reported that they were currently divorced or separated, likely the result of higher remarriage rates among men.

#### *Remarriage intentions*

In 1990, 28% of divorced Canadians said that they intended to remarry at some point in their lives (Table 2.13). Another 46% did not intend to remarry and 26% were unsure. Intentions varied by age. While 44% of divorced Canadians aged 18-29 intended to remarry, only 39% of those aged 30-39, 28% aged 40-49 and 13% aged 50-64 intended to remarry.

Overall, divorced men (33%) were more likely to report that they intended to remarry than divorced women (25%) (Figure 2.3). Consistent with the overall age trend, the proportion of both men and women with intentions to remarry decreased with age.

**FIGURE 2.3**  
Proportion of previously-married population aged 18-64 by intentions to remarry and gender, Canada, 1990



\* Value suppressed due to value of 0 or value too small.

Far fewer widowed Canadians (12%) reported that they intended to remarry than did those who were divorced. Nonetheless, more widowed Canadians (56%) said that they did not intend to remarry and more (32%) were unsure of their intentions than divorced individuals (data not shown).

## 2.3 DISCUSSION

Conjugal unions are changing in Canada, both in their formation and their forms. Yet, it is apparent here, as it has been in other studies, that marriage remains popular and perhaps more importantly, that both types of conjugal unions are the dominant reality for the vast majority.

The 1990 General Social Survey reveals findings and trends that are consistent with previous research (Boyd, 1988; Burch, 1985; Burch & Madan, 1986; Dumas & Peron, 1992; Ram, 1990; Statistics Canada, 1989). Two general conclusions can be drawn from this analysis. First, there is greater diversity in the kinds of conjugal unions in which Canadians live. It has been seen, for example, that in 1990, 58% were currently married, while approximately 9% lived common law, 9% were divorced, separated or widowed (if also living common law, were included in common-law category) and the same proportion was single as

previously. In addition, for about 13% of those who were currently married, either they or their spouses had been previously married. Second, it is more common for Canadians to experience different kinds of unions. For example, 28% reported having lived common law at some time, with 19% living common law prior to legal marriage, and 7% having lived in more than one common-law union.

Marriage is, by no means, going out of style. By ages 50-64, 95% of Canadians reported having been legally married at least once. And 75% of ever-married Canadians were still in their first marriage. Most never-married Canadians expected to marry, with men (71%) more positive in this regard than women (67%). Once divorced, expectations about remarriage declined with age (44% of those aged 18-29, compared with 13% of those aged 50-64). Among people previously married, divorced men were more optimistic about remarriage (33%) than divorced women (25%).

Divorce and marital separation are shown in this analysis to be increasing in recent years. For those who had been legally married, 17% in 1990 had their first marriage end in divorce, compared with 11% in 1984. Another 4% ended their marriage in separation; a level unchanged from 1984. In both years, divorce and separation rates for those aged 40-49 were higher

than in any other age group. An innovative aspect of the current analysis is its attention to dissolution of common-law unions as well as legal marriages. About one-third of those ever living common law had their unions result in marriage, with another one-third reporting separation and the remainder still in a common-law union.

While a considerable body of previous evidence supports the findings reported here, much greater uncertainty exists about the meaning and interpretation of these findings. Changes in conjugal unions, particularly the strong growth in common-law unions and in marital dissolution, have attracted much interest by both the general public and social analysts.

Although it is generally agreed that the family as a social institution is in transition, there is less agreement regarding the meaning of transition and its implications, for individuals and for Canadian society. Two central approaches, the ends of a continuum, characterize thinking about family change today. First, there is the notion that the family as it came to be known in the 1950s and 1960s in most of North America, is ending. This view, in its strongest form, sees the family as declining, eroding and being undermined by social changes and growing individualism (McDaniel, 1992, 1993; Ram, 1990:1-4; Wilson, 1991:24). Divorce and common-law unions are cited as examples of family decline and lack of interest in traditional families. Also cited is the growth in women's labour force participation, particularly growth among married women with preschool children.

The counter view welcomes family change (Boyd, 1988; Cheal, 1991; Eichler, 1988; McDaniel, 1992, 1993; Ram, 1990:1-4). This view suggests that family diversity has always been present, that different family forms do not necessarily mean that the family is no longer serving individual and societal needs, and that common-law unions and divorce do not mark the end of families. Some argue that diversity in family form strengthens the family as a social institution by increasing the possible ways in which one can be familial, as well as by increasing the choices individuals have available to them.

Interpretation of the dramatic increase in common-law unions is not straightforward in light of the various approaches to explaining this phenomenon. When examining trends in common-law unions, caution is advised. Questions about common-law unions or cohabitation have only recently been asked on surveys

and in the census of Canada. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the long-term trend in living common law. As societal attitudes have changed, the likelihood is high that more people would readily admit to living common law than they might have in the past, even if the question had been asked. Questions about living common law are challenged by the various terms people use for this kind of union. In French, it is "union libre", which may have a different connotation or social acceptability than common law. The term "common law" is fraught with misinterpretation; people often do not know what it means or if there is a specific definition they should know in order to answer. Other terms such as "living together" could describe many families, as well as roommate and shared accommodation living arrangements. The terms "cohabitation" or "consensual union" may also be confusing to some respondents. In the past, it was thought that "less well-off people" lived common law. This may mean that the term carried with it a stigma. As such, "better-off" people might be less willing to admit having lived common law. In sum, rates of common-law unions reported here may be either under- or over-estimated.

It may be that more detailed questions could be considered about the nature of common-law relationships, but such questions might be too intrusive for some respondents. There are also in any national Statistics Canada survey, practical limitations to the number of questions asked on any one topic. A possible approach to consider for future surveys might be the simultaneous use, in parentheses, of alternative terms for common law as well as a clearer definition.

How might the rates found in the 1990 GSS be interpreted then in light of the above discussed approaches? The first approach would see common-law unions and their growth as an "alternative lifestyle" (Ram, 1990: 53), frequently seen as prevalent among younger adults. Rates do tend to be higher for those under age 30. For example, 43% of men and 53% of women living common law were under age 30, according to both the 1981 and 1986 Censuses (Ram, 1990:54). But, 32% of men and 26% of women in common-law unions in 1986 were aged 30-39. Another 11% of men and 7% of women living common law were aged 50 and over. It seems then that common-law unions in 1986, although more prevalent among younger adults, were also prevalent among those over 30 years old (57% of men and 40% of women aged 30 and over were in common-law unions). In the 1990 GSS, it was found that

common-law unions are growing among middle-aged Canadians at a faster rate than among younger adults. This could suggest, with due attention to the definitional and methodological concerns outlined, that common-law unions are not simply an "alternative lifestyle" but something more. The finding that almost one-third of Canadians report ever having lived common law adds force to this interpretation.

Other interpretations, still within the first approach described above, include the notion that common-law unions are trial marriages (Burch & Madan, 1986) or "experimental courtship phases" (Ram, 1990: 55). Based on analysis of the 1984 Family History Survey, Burch and Madan conclude that marriages preceded by a common-law union were more likely to end in divorce than those not preceded by common-law unions (Burch & Madan, 1986:22). The finding from the 1990 GSS that one-third of common-law unions end in legal marriage lends some support, albeit limited, to the notion that common-law unions may be premarriage trials. The finding that almost one-third continue to live common law suggests that an alternative conjugal union to marriage is being created.

Further support for the interpretation that common-law unions might be more than simply an alternate lifestyle of youth or trial marriages comes from four types of evidence. First, Boyd (1988:89) argues compellingly that common-law unions ought to be considered part of any analysis of changes in the family for several reasons. Among the reasons, and the most important to this discussion, is that common-law unions, even if a prelude to legal marriage, should still be regarded as an emerging family form. Second, Eichler, in discussing legal and economic aspects of living common law, suggests that "to impose a marriage model on people who do not wish to live within such a framework seems...a basic derogation of rights" (Eichler, 1988:352). Eichler is making the point that common law or cohabiting partners may be choosing different economic and social arrangements than those who are legally married choose, therefore creating new family forms rather than trial marriages.

Third, there is the compelling evidence from other countries, most notably Sweden and the United States, showing that cohabitation is becoming the conjugal union of choice for many. Hoem (1989: 396) reports that, "In its modern form, nonmarital cohabitation became noticeably prevalent about two decades ago, and it has spread throughout all of Swedish society to such an extent that only very few people now marry

without having ever lived in a consensual union." A U.S. study, which reports data up through 1992, finds that in the 1982-1992 decade, among white women and women who had attended college, the rate of births outside legal marriages more than doubled. Among women with professional and managerial jobs, the rate nearly tripled. Many of these women likely lived in common-law unions.

Fourth, studies by Marcil-Gratton (1993:76) have found that "Cohabitation in Quebec is rapidly becoming a replacement of legal marriage, both as first unions' setting and as the context to give birth to children." Analyses of the 1984 Family History Survey and the 1990 General Social Survey by Marcil-Gratton (1993) have shown that "...58% of 1987-1989 birth cohorts were born to such parents" [parents where at least one parent has ever lived in a common-law union]. Marcil-Gratton (1993:88) concludes that "...legal marriage is not the majority choice to begin life as a couple in Canada; in Quebec, marriage is even getting to be a minority choice for giving birth to a first child."

As more Canadians are choosing conjugal unions that differ from legal marriage, at least at some time in their lives, divorce rates may be showing signs of stabilizing. Interpretation of divorce rate trends is less challenging than interpretations of the meaning of common-law unions, but often subject to misinterpretation. Canada's rate of divorce is not as high as that of the United States (Boyd, 1988:90; Dumas & Lavoie, 1992:17), but is higher than the official rates reported in Europe. Divorce rates clearly fluctuate with changes in the laws granting access to divorce, so that there was a surge in divorces following the 1968 change in the law and another surge after the 1985 divorce law change (Dumas & Peron, 1992:62; Ram, 1990:20). Divorce may not be an indicator of unhappy marriages, but the degree to which laws permit unhappy marriages to end. Of course, legal provision of a way out of a less than satisfactory marriage feeds into individual standards and judgements of what is satisfactory. Many of those obtaining divorces in the decade following the 1968 divorce law change had been married, and often separated, for a number of years. Recent analyses (Dumas & Peron, 1992:59-62) reveal that this back-log phenomenon may have caused analysts to over-estimate future rates and risks of divorce. Couples today are obtaining divorces after less time married than previously (Ram, 1990:20), reinforcing the possibility, not that marriage in general is more at risk, but rather

that people are choosing other marriages rather than remain in unhappy marriages for many years.

In conclusion, although interpretation is difficult, it is clear from the 1990 GSS that Canadians continue to form conjugal unions and to value these unions. There is greater diversity of unions than previously in Canada and a tendency for individuals to experience more diversity of unions as they go through their lives. No indication emerges from these findings that Canadians are avoiding the formation of families or unions.

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**TABLE 2.1**

Proportion of population aged 18-64 by legal marital status<sup>1</sup>, gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>2</sup>

Gender and age group	Legal marital status										
	Total		Married <sup>3</sup>		Widowed		Divorced		Never married		Not stated
	1990/1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)											
<b>Both genders</b>											
All age groups	100	61	66	2	2	7	5	29	27	--	--
18-29	100	30	38	--	--	2	2	69	60	--	--
30-39	100	70	79	--	1	8	7	21	13	--	--
40-49	100	79	84	1	1	12	7	7	7	--	--
50-64	100	79	80	7	8	9	5	5	6	1	--
<b>Men</b>											
All age groups	100	59	66	1	1	6	3	33	29	--	--
18-29	100	24	33	--	--	--	1	75	66	--	--
30-39	100	67	80	--	--	7	5	25	15	--	--
40-49	100	80	85	--	1	10	6	8	8	--	--
50-64	100	82	86	3	4	8	3	6	7	--	--
<b>Women</b>											
All age groups	100	63	66	3	4	8	6	26	24	--	--
18-29	100	36	43	--	--	2	3	62	55	--	--
30-39	100	72	78	--	1	9	8	17	12	--	--
40-49	100	77	82	2	2	14	9	6	7	--	--
50-64	100	76	75	9	13	9	6	4	6	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Common law is not considered a marital status for this table.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

<sup>3</sup> Includes people married and separated but not divorced.

**TABLE 2.2**

Proportion of ever-married population aged 18-64 by number of marriages, gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Number of marriages					
	Total ever married		One		Two or more	
	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)						
<b>Both genders</b>						
All age groups	70	73	64	68	7	5
18-29	31	40	31	39	1	1
30-39	78	87	72	81	6	6
40-49	92	93	81	85	11	8
50-64	95	94	84	86	11	8
<b>Men</b>						
All age groups	66	71	60	66	7	5
18-29	25	34	24	33	--	--
30-39	74	85	69	80	5	5
40-49	91	92	78	84	12	8
50-64	94	93	82	85	11	8
<b>Women</b>						
All age groups	74	76	68	71	6	5
18-29	38	45	37	44	--	1
30-39	82	88	75	82	8	7
40-49	93	93	84	85	9	8
50-64	96	94	85	86	10	8

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Burch, T.K., Family History Survey: 1985 Preliminary Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 99-955.

**TABLE 2.3**

**Age difference between husbands and wives by gender and age group,  
currently married population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age difference	Age group									
	Total currently married		18-29		30-39		40-49		50-64	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Men</b>										
All groups	4,696	100	600	100	1,422	100	1,295	100	1,379	100
4+ years older than spouse	1,245	27	48	8	288	20	395	30	514	37
3 years older than spouse	497	11	53	9	160	11	147	11	137	10
2 years older than spouse	629	13	88	15	203	14	169	13	170	12
0-1 year older than spouse	1,338	28	248	41	454	32	321	25	315	23
0-1 year younger than spouse	599	13	109	18	205	14	157	12	129	9
2 years younger than spouse	104	2	--	--	36	3	--	--	--	--
3 years younger than spouse	60	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
4+ years younger than spouse	131	3	22	4	45	3	38	3	25	2
Not stated	93	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	43	3
<b>Women</b>										
All groups	4,956	100	842	100	1,529	100	1,255	100	1,330	100
4+ years older than spouse	140	3	--	--	51	3	48	4	35	3
3 years older than spouse	75	2	--	--	33	2	--	--	--	--
2 years older than spouse	132	3	--	--	43	3	44	4	--	--
0-1 year older than spouse	707	14	110	13	234	15	156	12	208	16
0-1 year younger than spouse	1,206	24	229	27	369	24	284	23	323	24
2 years younger than spouse	651	13	135	16	202	13	193	15	122	9
3 years younger than spouse	502	10	89	11	153	10	124	10	136	10
4+ years younger than spouse	1,482	30	247	29	425	28	359	29	450	34
Not stated	61	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 2.4

Proportion of population aged 18-64 by marital status, gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Total population	Marital status									
		Married		Common law		Divorced, separated or widowed		Never married		Not stated	
		1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)											
<b>Both genders</b>											
All age groups	100	58	63	9	6	9	8	24	24	--	--
18-29	100	28	36	13	9	2	3	56	53	--	--
30-39	100	66	75	12	6	8	8	14	11	--	--
40-49	100	74	80	7	4	13	10	6	7	--	--
50-64	100	76	78	3	3	16	13	5	6	--	--
<b>Men</b>											
All age groups	100	56	63	9	5	6	5	28	27	--	--
18-29	100	23	31	11	7	--	2	64	60	--	--
30-39	100	64	76	13	6	5	5	17	12	--	--
40-49	100	75	82	7	3	9	7	8	8	--	--
50-64	100	78	83	4	3	12	8	6	6	--	--
<b>Women</b>											
All age groups	100	59	63	9	7	11	10	20	21	--	--
18-29	100	33	40	15	10	3	4	48	46	--	--
30-39	100	68	74	11	7	10	10	12	9	--	--
40-49	100	72	77	6	4	16	13	5	6	--	--
50-64	100	73	73	--	3	21	19	4	6	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

**TABLE 2.5**

**Legal marital status by gender and age group, population aged 18-64 currently living common law, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Legal marital status							
	Total currently common law		Divorced, separated or widowed		Never married		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)								
<b>Both genders</b>								
All age groups	1,560	100	573	37	977	63	—	—
18-29	686	100	60	9	626	91	—	—
30-39	540	100	229	42	309	57	—	—
40-49	236	100	193	82	39	17	—	—
50-64	99	100	91	92	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>								
All age groups	786	100	301	38	482	61	—	—
18-29	298	100	—	—	283	95	—	—
30-39	293	100	114	39	179	61	—	—
40-49	128	100	108	85	—	—	—	—
50-64	67	100	64	95	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>								
All age groups	774	100	272	35	495	64	—	—
18-29	387	100	45	12	343	88	—	—
30-39	246	100	114	46	130	53	—	—
40-49	108	100	85	79	—	—	—	—
50-64	32	100	28	88	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.6**

Proportion of population aged 18-64 ever living common law by number of common-law unions, gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Number of common-law unions					
	Total ever lived common law		One union		Two or more unions	
	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)						
<b>Both genders</b>						
All age groups	28	16	21	15	7	2
18-29	33	23	27	22	6	2
30-39	40	21	28	19	13	2
40-49	24	10	17	9	7	--
50-64	11	6	9	6	2	--
<b>Men</b>						
All age groups	28	16	20	14	8	2
18-29	27	20	23	18	4	1
30-39	41	22	28	19	14	3
40-49	26	10	17	9	9	--
50-64	13	6	10	6	3	--
<b>Women</b>						
All age groups	28	17	22	16	7	1
18-29	38	27	31	25	8	2
30-39	39	21	28	18	12	2
40-49	21	10	17	9	4	--
50-64	8	6	7	5	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Burch, T.K., Family History Survey: 1985 Preliminary Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 99-955.

**TABLE 2.7**  
**Common-law unions before current marriage by gender and age group, currently married population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Lived common law before current marriage							
	Total currently married		Yes		No		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)								
<b>Both genders</b>								
All age groups	9,652	100	1,806	19	7,831	81	--	--
18-29	1,442	100	534	37	908	63	--	--
30-39	2,951	100	836	28	2,108	71	--	--
40-49	2,550	100	318	12	2,231	87	--	--
50-64	2,708	100	117	4	2,584	95	--	--
<b>Men</b>								
All age groups	4,696	100	847	18	3,841	82	--	--
18-29	600	100	187	31	413	69	--	--
30-39	1,422	100	404	28	1,017	72	--	--
40-49	1,295	100	187	14	1,107	85	--	--
50-64	1,379	100	69	5	1,304	95	--	--
<b>Women</b>								
All age groups	4,956	100	958	19	3,990	80	--	--
18-29	842	100	347	41	495	59	--	--
30-39	1,529	100	433	28	1,091	71	--	--
40-49	1,255	100	131	10	1,124	90	--	--
50-64	1,330	100	48	4	1,280	96	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.8**

**Marriage expectations by gender and age group, never-married population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990**

Gender and marriage expectations	Age group									
	Total never married		18-29		30-39		40-49		50-64	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	4,908	100	3,526	100	951	100	257	100	174	100
Expect to marry	3,392	69	2,834	80	494	52	51	20	—	—
Do not expect to marry	802	16	342	10	251	26	93	36	117	67
Do not know	711	14	350	10	206	22	112	44	44	25
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
Total	2,778	100	1,969	100	560	100	146	100	104	100
Expect to marry	1,962	71	1,599	81	314	56	40	28	—	—
Do not expect to marry	392	14	174	9	117	21	36	25	65	63
Do not know	422	15	195	10	128	23	68	47	31	29
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
Total	2,129	100	1,558	100	391	100	111	100	70	100
Expect to marry	1,430	67	1,235	79	180	46	—	—	—	—
Do not expect to marry	410	19	168	11	134	34	56	51	52	74
Do not know	289	14	155	10	77	20	44	40	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.9**

Outcome of first marriage by gender and age group, ever-married population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Total ever married	Outcome of first marriage									
		Still married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed		Not stated	
		1990/1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990
(Percent)											
<b>Both genders</b>											
All age groups	100	75	80	4	4	17	11	4	4	1	--
18-29	100	87	88	5	5	7	6	--	--	--	--
30-39	100	77	81	4	4	17	14	1	1	1	--
40-49	100	70	78	5	4	22	15	2	2	1	--
50-64	100	70	77	3	3	17	9	9	11	1	--
<b>Men</b>											
All age groups	100	76	84	4	4	16	10	2	2	1	--
18-29	100	90	91	4	5	5	4	--	--	--	--
30-39	100	80	84	4	4	15	12	--	--	--	--
40-49	100	71	82	4	3	22	14	--	1	--	--
50-64	100	73	82	4	3	17	9	5	7	--	--
<b>Women</b>											
All age groups	100	73	77	4	5	17	12	5	6	1	--
18-29	100	85	86	6	6	8	8	--	--	--	--
30-39	100	74	78	4	5	19	16	1	2	--	--
40-49	100	70	75	5	5	22	16	3	4	--	--
50-64	100	68	72	2	3	16	10	12	15	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Statistics Canada, 1984 Family History Survey.

**TABLE 2.10**

**Reason for termination of first marriage by gender and age group,  
population aged 18-64 whose first marriage has ended, Canada, 1990**

Sex and age group	Reason for termination of first marriage							
	All reasons		Separated/ divorced		Widowed		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)								
<b>Both genders</b>								
All age groups	2,511	100	1,991	79	416	17	104	4
18-29	120	100	110	92	--	--	--	--
30-39	673	100	607	90	43	6	23	3
40-49	812	100	706	87	66	8	40	5
50-64	906	100	568	63	304	34	34	4
<b>Men</b>								
All age groups	1,094	100	905	83	128	12	61	6
18-29	36	100	30	85	--	--	--	--
30-39	276	100	243	88	--	--	--	--
40-49	398	100	345	87	--	--	--	--
50-64	385	100	286	74	89	23	--	--
<b>Women</b>								
All age groups	1,417	100	1,086	77	288	20	43	3
18-29	84	100	80	95	--	--	--	--
30-39	397	100	364	92	27	7	--	--
40-49	414	100	361	87	46	11	--	--
50-64	521	100	281	54	215	41	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.11**

**Outcome of first common-law union by gender and age group, population aged 18-64 ever living common law, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Outcome of first common-law union											
	Total ever living common law		Still living common law		Marriage		Separation		Widowed		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
All age groups	4,700	100	1,219	26	1,605	34	1,701	36	39	1	137	3
18-29	1,677	100	558	33	475	28	597	36	—	—	32	2
30-39	1,813	100	399	22	718	40	647	36	—	—	43	2
40-49	826	100	184	22	288	35	313	38	—	—	35	4
50-64	385	100	78	20	124	32	143	37	—	—	26	7
<b>Men</b>												
All age groups	2,328	100	589	25	741	32	936	40	—	—	60	3
18-29	708	100	249	35	173	24	272	38	—	—	—	—
30-39	924	100	198	21	345	37	368	40	—	—	—	—
40-49	460	100	92	20	155	34	200	43	—	—	—	—
50-64	236	100	50	21	69	29	96	41	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
All age groups	2,372	100	630	27	864	36	765	32	36	2	77	3
18-29	969	100	309	32	302	31	325	34	—	—	—	—
30-39	889	100	201	23	373	42	279	31	—	—	31	3
40-49	366	100	92	25	133	36	114	31	—	—	—	—
50-64	149	100	28	19	56	37	47	32	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.12**

**Current marital status by gender and age group, ever-married population aged 18-64,  
Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Current marital status													
	Total ever married		Still married		Remarried		Common law		Still divorced/ separated		Still widowed		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
All age groups	11,713	100	8,772	75	880	8	580	5	1,193	10	272	2	—	—
18-29	1,606	100	1,410	88	32	2	60	4	102	6	—	—	—	—
30-39	3,518	100	2,713	77	238	7	229	6	322	9	—	—	—	—
40-49	3,187	100	2,248	71	302	9	197	6	399	13	39	1	—	—
50-64	3,402	100	2,400	71	308	9	95	3	369	11	217	6	—	—
<b>Men</b>														
All age groups	5,521	100	4,238	77	458	8	304	6	451	8	66	1	—	—
18-29	646	100	587	91	—	—	—	—	29	5	—	—	—	—
30-39	1,652	100	1,322	80	100	6	114	7	114	7	—	—	—	—
40-49	1,565	100	1,113	71	182	12	111	7	149	10	—	—	—	—
50-64	1,657	100	1,215	73	163	10	64	4	158	10	54	3	—	—
<b>Women</b>														
All age groups	6,192	100	4,534	73	422	7	276	4	742	12	207	3	—	—
18-29	960	100	823	86	—	—	45	5	73	8	—	—	—	—
30-39	1,866	100	1,391	75	138	7	114	6	208	11	—	—	—	—
40-49	1,622	100	1,135	70	120	7	85	5	250	15	31	2	—	—
50-64	1,745	100	1,185	68	145	8	32	2	211	12	162	9	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 2.13**  
**Intentions to remarry by gender and age group, divorced population aged  
 18-64, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Intentions to remarry									
	Total divorced		Yes		No		Do not know		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
All age groups	1,178	100	334	28	538	46	304	26	—	—
18-29	78	100	35	44	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-39	365	100	141	39	136	37	86	23	—	—
40-49	419	100	119	28	192	46	108	26	—	—
50-64	316	100	40	13	189	60	88	28	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
All age groups	486	100	159	33	219	45	108	22	—	—
18-29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-39	153	100	65	43	61	40	27	17	—	—
40-49	171	100	54	31	79	46	39	23	—	—
50-64	145	100	33	23	75	52	37	26	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
All age groups	692	100	175	25	319	46	196	28	—	—
18-29	61	100	27	45	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-39	211	100	76	36	75	35	59	28	—	—
40-49	248	100	65	26	113	46	70	28	—	—
50-64	171	100	—	—	114	66	51	30	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990



## CHAPTER 3

### CHILDREN AND FERTILITY INTENTIONS

#### 3.1 METHODS

In Section C of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire, respondents were asked to specify if they had ever raised natural (C4), step- (C2) and/or adopted children (C3). Some of the data were compared with that of the 1984 Family History Survey. As such, only Canadians aged 18-64 were included in this particular analysis to provide continuity between the two surveys.

Data on fertility and fertility intentions were drawn from Section D of the questionnaire. Only respondents who were aged 15-44 in 1990 were asked questions regarding their fertility intentions. Respondents were asked if they or their partner/spouse had been sterilized or were otherwise unable to have children (D4 and D5). As a result, only respondents who could have children and if they had a partner, the partner could also have children, answered questions regarding the number of children they intended. The question pertaining to number of children intended reflects total number of children (D7). As such, any children the respondent had at the time of the survey were included in the total. Respondents were not asked whether they (spouse) were pregnant at the time of the survey.

#### 3.2 RESULTS

##### 3.2.1 Children

###### *Trends: 1984 to 1990*

The percentage of Canadians aged 18-64 who reported having raised natural children declined from 64% (1984) to 58% (1990) (Text Table 3.1). By gender, the decline was greater among men than women. Specifically, in 1984 and 1990, the percentage among men declined from 60% to 53%, respectively, and from 68% to 64%, respectively, among women. The difference is partly due to the fact that the average age at birth of first child is younger for women.

Comparison by age and gender reveals that the largest declines, between 1984 and 1990, among men who had raised natural children, occurred at ages 30-39 (75% to 61%, respectively). This was followed by men aged 40-49 (84% to 73%) and men aged 18-29 (22% to 16%). Among women, the largest decline was 8%, from 80% to 72% for those aged 30-39. This is followed closely by women aged 40-49 (88% to 81%) and women aged 18-29 (35% to 30%). At ages 50-64, the difference was small, 86% to 83%.

These trends suggest changes in childrearing by generation and changes in age at birth of first child. While at older ages the differences in proportions are either minimal or do not exist, the differences in the younger age groups for both men and women are more substantial.

The average age at birth of first child has increased since 1984. In 1984, the average age for men was 25.8 years, compared with 26.6 years in 1990 (Text Table 3.2). For women, the increase was only from 23.1 years to 23.5 years.

For men, comparison by age group revealed a consistent increase in all age groups except the oldest. The largest increase among men was 1.1 years from 25.4 to 26.5 for men aged 30-39. Among men aged 50-64, the average age declined from 27.4 to 27.0.

Trends were less clear for women. Among women aged 18-29, the average age remained the same at 21.5 years, but increased 1.1 years from 23.2 to 24.3 among women aged 30-39. In addition, the average age increased 1.0 years among women aged 40-49 (i.e. 22.8 to 23.8, respectively), while it declined 0.6 years among women aged 50-64 (24.1 to 23.5, respectively).

###### *All children*

In 1990, most Canadians (52%) reported that they had two or more children, while 13% had one child and

**TEXT TABLE 3.1**

Proportion of population aged 18-64 who have ever raised natural, step- or adopted<sup>1</sup> children by gender and age group, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>2</sup>

Gender and age group	Children raised					
	Natural children		Step-children		Adopted children	
	1990	1984	1990	1984	1990	1984
(Percent)						
<b>Both genders</b>						
All age groups	58	64	5	3	2	3
18-29	23	29	2	1	--	--
30-39	67	77	5	4	1	3
40-49	77	86	7	5	4	4
50-64	81	85	5	4	4	5
<b>Men</b>						
All age groups	53	60	6	4	2	3
18-29	16	22	2	1	--	1
30-39	61	75	7	6	1	2
40-49	73	84	10	7	5	4
50-64	79	83	6	6	5	5
<b>Women</b>						
All age groups	64	68	3	2	2	3
18-29	30	35	2	1	--	--
30-39	72	80	4	3	1	3
40-49	81	88	4	4	4	5
50-64	83	86	5	2	4	4

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Not counting step-children who have been legally adopted.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Burch, T.K., Family History Survey: 1985 Preliminary Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 99-955.

35% had no children (Table 3.1). More men (39%) than women (32%) said that they did not have any children. Conversely, more women (54%) than men (49%) reported having two or more children.

The total number of children (i.e. natural, step or adopted) raised by Canadians varied by the number of unions that were reported. Unions refers to any marriage or common-law unions in which the individual was involved. Among Canadians who had never been in a union, 98% reported no children (96% of women and 99% of men). Eighteen percent of people who had been involved in one union, and 18% involved in at least two unions had never raised children. Among people who had had one union, a smaller proportion (15%) had raised one child than people who had been involved in two or more unions (19%). Conversely, more people who had had one union (67%) had raised two or more children, compared with those with at least two unions (62%).

#### *Natural children*

In 1990, close to two-thirds of Canadians (62%) had had natural children (Table 3.2). Of those who had had children of their own, 79% had two or more. Comparison by gender showed that more women (65%) than men (59%) had had their own children. As well, women (52%) were more likely than men (46%) to have reported two or more children.

The number of unions in which Canadians had been involved was related to the total number of children reported. Most people (98%) who had never been in a union had not had their own child, while the same was true for only 21% in one union and 23% of people in two or more unions. More people who had reported two or more unions (20%) than people reporting only one union (15%) had had only one child. However, proportionately more people who had had only one union (64%) reported two or more children, compared with people in two or more unions (56%).

### **Step-children**

In 1990, only 4% of all Canadians had raised or were raising step-children (Table 3.3). Equivalent proportions (2%) reported raising one or two or more step-children. Comparison by gender revealed that more men (6%) than women (3%) had raised step-children. While 3% of men had raised one step-child, only 1% of women had. Among Canadians who had been involved in two or more unions, 18% reported raising step-children, whereas only 3% of people involved in only one union reported the same.

### **TEXT TABLE 3.2**

Average age at birth of first natural child by gender and age group, population aged 18-64, Canada, 1990 and 1984<sup>1</sup>

Gender and age group	Average age at birth of first child	
	1990	1984
	(Years)	
<b>Both genders</b>		
All age groups	24.8	24.3
18-29	22.3	22.1
30-39	25.2	24.3
40-49	25.4	24.3
50-64	25.1	25.6
<b>Men</b>		
All age groups	26.6	25.8
18-29	23.9	23.0
30-39	26.5	25.4
40-49	27.2	25.9
50-64	27.0	27.4
<b>Women</b>		
All age groups	23.5	23.1
18-29	21.5	21.5
30-39	24.3	23.2
40-49	23.8	22.8
50-64	23.5	24.1

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Source: Burch, T.K., Family History Survey: 1985 Preliminary Findings, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 99-955.

### **Adopted children**

Few Canadians (3%) said that they had adopted any children (Table 3.4). Of those who had adopted children, 70% had adopted one child, while the remaining 30% had adopted two or more.

### **3.2.2 Fertility Intentions**

#### *Ability to have children*

In 1990, over three-quarters of people aged 15-44 reported that they were biologically able to have children (Text Table 3.3). Another 23% said they or their partner could not have children (the majority of whom by choice).

More men (80%) than women (73%) reported that they could have children, and conversely more women (27%) than men (19%) reported that they or their partner could not have children. Analysis by marital status revealed the highest proportion of inability to have children was among the married (40%), divorced (39%) and separated (30%). In addition, more married men (60%) than married women (58%) and more men living common-law (84%) than women (81%) said they were able to have children.

Among Canadians with one child, 26% said that they or their partner were unable to have (or to have more) children (Text Table 3.4). For those with two children, 51% said that they or their partner were unable to have (or have more) children. This proportion rose to 60% among those with three or more children. The proportions between men and women were similar (data not shown).

#### *Intentions to have children*

Among people aged 15-44, 50% wanted to have (or have more) children, 17% did not want to have any (or have any more children) and 10% did not know if they wanted to have any (or more) children (Table 3.5). Intention to have children was highest among people aged 15-24. In fact, 86% of people aged 15-24 reported that they intended to either have children or have more children, compared with 54% of people aged 25-34 and 10% of people aged 35-44.

**TEXT TABLE 3.3**

Ability to have children by gender and marital status, population aged 15-44, Canada, 1990

Gender and marital status	Ability to have children					
	Total		Able		Unable <sup>1</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
<b>Both genders</b>						
Total	12,625	100	9,679	77	2,941	23
Married	5,850	100	3,456	59	2,364	40
Common law	1,358	100	1,119	82	256	19
Divorced	350	100	219	63	136	39
Separated	267	100	188	71	81	30
Widowed	28	100	22	80	—	—
Single	4,743	100	4,656	98	87	2
Not stated	30	100	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>						
Total	6,319	100	5,061	80	1,226	19
Married	2,749	100	1,656	60	1,066	39
Common law	660	100	552	84	110	17
Divorced	121	100	97	80	—	—
Separated	100	100	92	92	—	—
Widowed	—	—	—	—	—	—
Single	2,663	100	2,644	99	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>						
Total	6,307	100	4,619	73	1,714	27
Married	3,100	100	1,800	58	1,298	42
Common law	697	100	567	81	145	21
Divorced	229	100	122	53	114	50
Separated	167	100	97	58	71	43
Widowed	—	—	—	—	—	—
Single	2,079	100	2,012	97	72	3
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes those who already have children but are unable to have more, the majority by choice.

**TEXT TABLE 3.4**

Intentions to have children by current number of children, population aged 15-44, Canada, 1990

Current number of children	Total		Unable <sup>1</sup> to have children		Intend to have children		Do not intend to have children		Do not know/Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
Total	12,625	100	2,941	23	6,254	50	2,128	17	1,302	10
No children	6,824	100	334	5	5,054	74	784	11	652	10
One child	1,798	100	464	26	826	46	291	16	217	12
Two children	2,711	100	1,378	51	300	11	734	27	299	11
Three or more	1,277	100	762	60	62	5	320	25	133	10

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes people who already have children but are unable to have more, the majority by choice.

In 1990, slightly less than half of all Canadians aged 15-44 intended to have a total of two children, 22% intended to have three children and 9% intended to have only one child (Table 3.6). Only 9% reported that they intended to have four or more children. Comparison by gender revealed similar intentions for both men and women. Overall, people in common-law unions intended to have fewer children than married people (Figure 3.1). In fact, 13% of people in common-law unions intended to have one child, 43% two children, 19% three children and 11% four or more children. Among married people, 11% intended to have one child, 48% two children, 24% three children and 9% four or more children. Comparison by gender and marital status revealed similar intentions (Table 3.6).

For Canadians who said they could have children, 61% of people with one child said they intended to have more children (Table 3.7). This proportion dropped dramatically to 23% among people who had two children and to 13% among people with three or more children.

Among people who have never had natural children, 80% intended to have them (Table 3.8). Further

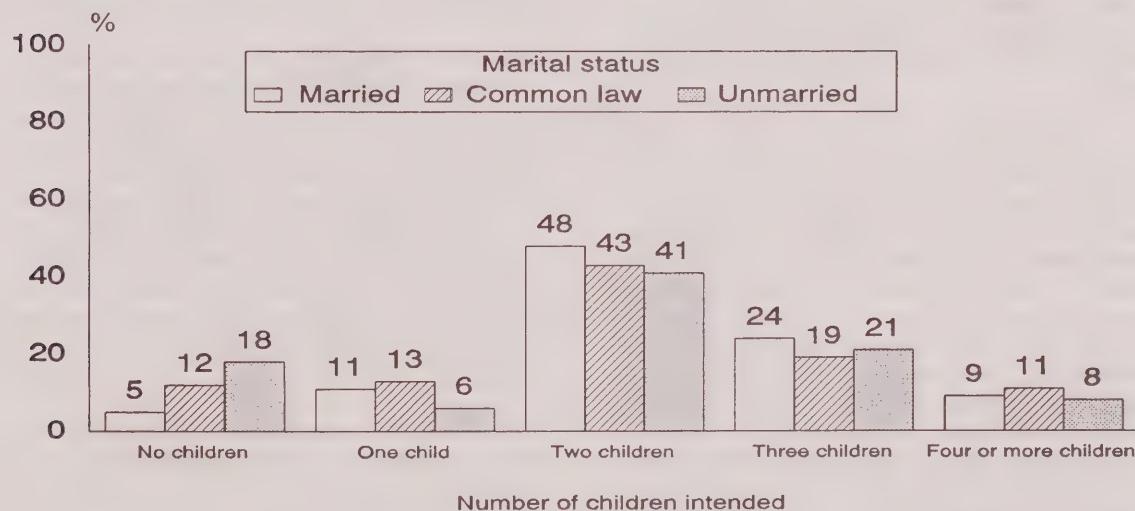
comparison by age revealed that 89% of people aged 15-24 intended to have children, compared with 78% of people aged 25-34 and only 35% of people aged 35-44. While 6% of people aged 15-24 did not know if they wanted to have children, 11% of people aged 25-34 and 17% of people aged 35-44 did not know if they wanted children. At younger ages, similar proportions of men and women intended to have children, at older ages the proportions varied. Among men aged 35-44, 42% intended to have children and 23% were unsure. However, among women of the same age, only 27% intended to have children and 9% were unsure if they wanted to have any.

### 3.3 DISCUSSION

#### *Children*

Reproduction and children continue to be an important aspect of the family, although less so in Canada now than in the past. The long-term trend in Canada, as in most other industrialized countries, is towards declining or low fertility and shrinking family size. Findings from the 1990 GSS are consistent with these trends. The only exception being very recent fertility

**FIGURE 3.1**  
Proportion of population aged 15-44 by total number of children intended\* and marital status, Canada, 1990



\* Includes children they may already have.

General Social Survey, 1990

rates in Quebec, with the lowest fertility rates in Canada and among the lowest in the industrialized world, which showed a small increase that has not been sustained (Dumas, 1992:45).

The decline in the proportion of Canadians who have raised children of their own is not surprising. It is a consequence of the decreased birth rate (Dumas, 1990:18). This is related to postponement of births among the population. Hence, a smaller percentage at any given time would have thus far had the experience of having children, although they could at some time in the future. It is related to increasing childlessness (Ram, 1990: 29), which also is, in part, a function of younger women postponing having children. The percentage of women aged 40-44 who had not borne any children by 1984 was 7.2% (Ram, 1990:29). As Romaniuc (1989) suggests, it is difficult to determine how many women are childless by choice and how many by default after continual postponements of births and increasing infertility with age.

It has long been known that the average age of women at the birth of their first child is increasing, so the finding from the 1990 GSS that age at birth of first child has increased since 1984 is neither new nor surprising. That the average remained unaltered for the youngest women in this period may show that changes are largest for those who marry later and start having children later. This is confirmed in analyses by Ram (1990:25-28). Analyses by Grindstaff, Balakrishnan and Maxim (1989) of the 1981 Census of Canada have found that women who postpone childbearing or remain childless are best able to accomplish career and educational achievements outside of the marriage and family.

The often heard idea that Canadians today may be "rejecting" family and having children is not borne out by the finding that most Canadians have children at some point, with the majority having two (Balakrishnan, Lapierre-Adamcyk, 1993). The vast majority of those who have never been in a union report having no children. Yet, a major trend in Canadian family patterns today is the rapid growth in childbearing outside marriage (Ram, 1990: 31-33; Dumas, 1992:52-54). Dumas suggests that the dissociation of fertility from marriage is one of the main features of contemporary fertility patterns (1992: 52). It is highly probable that the dramatic increase in common-law unions, discussed in Chapter 2, is related to the growth of births outside marriage. A recent United States study (Bacchu, 1993)

found that over the 1982-1992 decade, the rate of births outside marriage among white women and women with college education had more than doubled, and tripled among women with professional jobs.

The 1990 GSS revealed important findings about step-children, since as Ram (1990:75) argues, few estimates exist of parents who are raising step-children. With remarriage now a common life experience, it would be expected that the numbers of people who are raising step-children would have increased from the 4% reported in this survey. Given that custody is most often held by women, it is not surprising that the step-parent experience would tend to be primarily a male experience.

#### *Fertility intentions*

Although, fertility intentions data from the 1990 General Social Survey are not as comprehensive as those from surveys that specifically focus on fertility, such as the 1984 Canadian Fertility Survey, they are of interest because of the possibilities for analysis in relation to other variables included.

The large proportion that reported an inability to have more children on their or their partner's part is consistent with findings that Canadians rely heavily on sterilization to prevent unwanted births. Another interpretation, not inconsistent with this first point, is that infertility may be increasing for a variety of reasons, among them prolonged use of contraception and postponement of childbearing, as discussed earlier.

One-half of Canadians of childbearing age want (or want more) children, suggesting no disenchantment with family or children. That 86% of those aged 15-24 express a wish to have children, compared with 54% of those 25-34, might mean that by their thirties, many Canadians will have had some children and may not want more. Alternately, it could mean that the realities, including the actual and personal costs, of having children set in as young people grow into adulthood. This is consistent with the earlier mentioned findings of Grindstaff, Balakrishnan and Maxim (1989).

The findings that common-law couples intend to have fewer children than married couples and the rapid growth in couples living common law might suggest the possibility of a further dip in fertility rates in the future.

In sum, it is evident from the findings that children continue to be an important part of family life in Canada, but in different ways and in different numbers than they have in the past.

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**TABLE 3.1**

**Total number of children<sup>1</sup> raised by gender and number of unions (married and common law), population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and number of unions	Total number of children raised									
	Total population		None		1 Child		2+ Children		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	20,526	100	7,267	35	2,638	13	10,621	52	--	--
No unions	4,447	100	4,345	98	84	2	--	--	--	--
One union	13,058	100	2,365	18	1,972	15	8,720	67	--	--
Two or more unions	2,939	100	536	18	567	19	1,837	62	--	--
Not stated	81	100	--	--	--	--	44	55	--	--
<b>Men</b>										
Total	10,038	100	3,873	39	1,258	13	4,908	49	--	--
No unions	2,469	100	2,453	99	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	6,034	100	1,153	19	949	16	3,932	65	--	--
Two or more unions	1,489	100	251	17	288	19	950	64	--	--
Not stated	47	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>										
Total	10,487	100	3,395	32	1,380	13	5,713	54	--	--
No unions	1,979	100	1,892	96	72	4	--	--	--	--
One union	7,024	100	1,212	17	1,023	15	4,789	68	--	--
Two or more unions	1,451	100	284	20	279	19	887	61	--	--
Not stated	34	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes natural, step-, and adopted children.

**TABLE 3.2**  
**Number of natural children by gender and number of unions, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and number of unions	Number of natural children									
	Total population		None		1 Child		2+ Children		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	20,526	100	7,737	38	2,635	13	10,008	49	—	—
No unions	4,447	100	4,347	98	85	2	—	—	—	—
One union	13,058	100	2,682	21	1,935	15	8,311	64	—	—
Two or more unions	2,939	100	687	23	601	20	1,637	56	—	—
Not stated	81	100	—	—	—	—	44	55	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
Total	10,038	100	4,139	41	1,257	13	4,602	46	—	—
No unions	2,469	100	2,453	99	—	—	—	—	—	—
One union	6,034	100	1,331	22	926	15	3,741	62	—	—
Two or more unions	1,489	100	339	23	310	21	835	56	—	—
Not stated	47	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
Total	10,487	100	3,597	34	1,379	13	5,406	52	—	—
No unions	1,979	100	1,894	96	73	4	—	—	—	—
One union	7,024	100	1,350	19	1,009	14	4,570	65	—	—
Two or more unions	1,451	100	348	24	291	20	802	55	—	—
Not stated	34	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 3.3**  
**Number of step-children raised by gender and number of unions,**  
**population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and number of unions	Number of step-children									
	Total population		None		1 Child		2+ Children		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	20,526	100	19,657	96	452	2	417	2	--	--
No unions	4,447	100	4,444	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	13,058	100	12,725	97	201	2	132	1	--	--
Two or more unions	2,939	100	2,411	82	247	8	282	10	--	--
Not stated	81	100	77	95	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Men</b>										
Total	10,038	100	9,484	94	304	3	251	2	--	--
No unions	2,469	100	2,468	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	6,034	100	5,829	97	130	2	75	1	--	--
Two or more unions	1,489	100	1,140	77	174	12	175	12	--	--
Not stated	47	100	47	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>										
Total	10,487	100	10,173	97	148	1	166	2	--	--
No unions	1,979	100	1,976	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	7,024	100	6,896	98	71	1	56	1	--	--
Two or more unions	1,451	100	1,271	88	73	5	107	7	--	--
Not stated	34	100	30	88	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 3.4

Number of adopted children by gender and number of unions,  
population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender and number of unions	Number of adopted children									
	Total population		None		1 Child		2+ Children		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	20,526	100	19,980	97	382	2	163	1	--	--
No unions	4,447	100	4,446	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	13,058	100	12,625	97	307	2	126	1	--	--
Two or more unions	2,939	100	2,830	96	74	3	35	1	--	--
Not stated	81	100	79	97	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Men</b>										
Total	10,038	100	9,751	97	210	2	77	1	--	--
No unions	2,469	100	2,469	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	6,034	100	5,809	96	169	3	56	1	--	--
Two or more unions	1,489	100	1,427	96	40	3	--	--	--	--
Not stated	47	100	46	98	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>										
Total	10,487	100	10,229	98	172	2	86	1	--	--
No unions	1,979	100	1,977	100	--	--	--	--	--	--
One union	7,024	100	6,816	97	138	2	70	1	--	--
Two or more unions	1,451	100	1,403	97	34	2	--	--	--	--
Not stated	34	100	33	97	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 3.5**  
**Intentions to have children by gender and age group, population aged  
 15-44, Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Intentions to have children									
	Total		Unable <sup>1</sup> to have children		Yes		No		Do not know/ Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
All age groups	12,625	100	2,941	23	6,254	50	2,128	17	1,302	10
15-24	3,838	100	47	1	3,309	86	214	6	268	7
25-34	4,706	100	802	17	2,525	54	787	17	593	13
35-44	4,080	100	2,092	51	420	10	1,128	28	441	11
<b>Men</b>										
All age groups	6,319	100	1,226	19	3,369	53	990	16	734	12
15-24	1,955	100	—	—	1,706	87	92	5	155	8
25-34	2,339	100	283	12	1,381	59	365	16	310	13
35-44	2,025	100	941	46	282	14	534	26	269	13
<b>Women</b>										
All age groups	6,307	100	1,714	27	2,885	46	1,138	18	569	9
15-24	1,884	100	45	2	1,603	85	122	6	113	6
25-34	2,368	100	519	22	1,144	48	422	18	282	12
35-44	2,055	100	1,151	56	138	7	594	29	173	8

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes people who already have children but are unable to have more.

**TABLE 3.6**

**Total number of children intended<sup>1</sup> by gender and marital status, population aged 15-44, Canada, 1990**

Gender and marital status	Total number of children intended															
	Total		None		1 child		2 children		3 children		4+ children		Do not know		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>Both genders</b>																
Total	12,625	100	1,427	11	1,144	9	5,588	44	2,757	22	1,122	9	449	4	138	1
Married	5,850	100	295	5	620	11	2,801	48	1,392	24	534	9	99	2	108	2
Common law	1,358	100	164	12	178	13	579	43	253	19	150	11	29	2	—	—
Unmarried	5,387	100	966	18	342	6	2,196	41	1,111	21	435	8	314	6	24	0
Not stated	30	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>																
Total	6,319	100	732	12	521	8	2,819	45	1,306	21	581	9	292	5	68	1
Married	2,749	100	134	5	298	11	1,313	48	617	22	279	10	52	2	57	2
Common law	660	100	66	10	80	12	273	41	135	20	86	13	—	—	—	—
Unmarried	2,891	100	532	18	141	5	1,228	42	554	19	214	7	216	7	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>																
Total	6,307	100	695	11	623	10	2,769	44	1,451	23	542	9	157	2	70	1
Married	3,100	100	161	5	322	10	1,487	48	776	25	256	8	47	2	51	2
Common law	697	100	98	14	98	14	306	44	118	17	64	9	—	—	—	—
Unmarried	2,496	100	434	17	201	8	968	39	557	22	221	9	98	4	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes children they may already have.

**TABLE 3.7**

**Intentions to have children by current number of children and gender, population aged 15-44 currently able to have children, Canada, 1990**

Gender and intentions to have children	Current number of children									
	Total		None		1 child		2 children		3+ children	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	9,685	100	6,194	100	1,431	100	1,443	100	616	100
Intend to have more children	6,254	65	4,962	80	879	61	332	23	81	13
Do not intend to have more children	2,128	22	638	10	316	22	786	54	388	63
Do not know	1,166	12	569	9	212	15	281	19	104	17
Not stated	136	1	25	0	--	--	44	3	44	7
<b>Men</b>										
Total	5,093	53	3,405	55	665	46	744	52	279	45
Intend to have more children	3,369	35	2,728	44	394	28	200	14	47	8
Do not intend to have more children	990	10	294	5	141	10	387	27	168	27
Do not know	666	7	372	6	114	8	142	10	39	6
Not stated	68	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>										
Total	4,592	47	2,789	45	766	54	700	48	337	55
Intend to have more children	2,885	30	2,234	36	486	34	133	9	33	5
Do not intend to have more children	1,138	12	344	6	175	12	400	28	220	36
Do not know	500	5	197	3	98	7	139	10	64	10
Not stated	69	1	--	--	--	--	28	2	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 3.8**  
**Intentions to have children by gender and age group, population aged 15-44**  
**currently able to have children but have not had any natural children,**  
**Canada, 1990**

Gender and age group	Intentions to have children									
	Total		Yes		No		Do not know		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
All age groups	6,269	100	5,013	80	688	11	568	9	—	—
15-24	3,520	100	3,117	89	177	5	226	6	—	—
25-34	2,149	100	1,683	78	226	11	239	11	—	—
35-44	601	100	213	35	285	47	103	17	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
All age groups	3,467	100	2,770	80	330	10	366	11	—	—
15-24	1,896	100	1,664	88	85	5	146	8	—	—
25-34	1,228	100	962	78	126	10	140	11	—	—
35-44	343	100	145	42	118	35	80	23	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
All age groups	2,802	100	2,243	80	358	13	201	7	—	—
15-24	1,624	100	1,453	89	92	6	79	5	—	—
25-34	920	100	721	78	100	11	99	11	—	—
35-44	258	100	69	27	166	65	23	9	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990



## CHAPTER 4

### LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND SATISFACTION

#### 4.1 METHODS

Items related to family and household type were derived from answers to questions in Sections A, C, H and J of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire. Information on household income and number of earners was drawn from answers to items L50 and L48, respectively.

Responses to hypothetical questions, about whom the respondent would turn to first for emotional support, reveal much about people's reliance on others, and their connectedness to family, friends and society. Although these connections and supports are basic to social theory, they have seldom been studied in national surveys. Section G of GSS 5-2 Questionnaire contains questions on emotional supports which address these issues.

The first question asked was:

Suppose you feel just a bit down or depressed, and wanted to talk about it. Whom would you turn to first for help?

A wide range of responses was allowed including: spouse or partner; parent; daughter; son; sister/brother; other relative including in-laws; friend; neighbour; someone you work with; church/clergy/priest; God; family doctor/GP; psychologist/psychiatrist/marriage counsellor/other professional counsellor; other; no one; do not know.

Respondents were also asked:

Now suppose you were very upset about a problem with your husband, wife or partner and had not been able to work it out. Whom would you turn to first for help?

Excluding spouse or partner, response options were the same as those given above.

An entire section (K) of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire was devoted to questions about satisfactions with various aspects of life with family and friends. This, too, is important data to have about Canadian families. Asking about degree of satisfaction is fraught with challenges, the most notable being respondents' reluctance in an interview situation, even a confidential telephone interview situation, to admit to being dissatisfied or unhappy with any aspect of their lives. This is particularly problematic when the questions pertain to family and friends, an area thought to be more under our own control and certainly an area of life closer to the heart and emotions than many others.

For this section, questions K4a to K4h were used in the analysis. These questions asked about satisfaction with relationships with spouses/partners or single status, relationships with immediate family, with sharing of housework, with job or main activity, with balance between family and home life, with time for other interests, with friends and with housing/accommodation.

#### 4.2 RESULTS

##### 4.2.1 Living Arrangements

The living arrangements of Canadians are diverse. In 1990, almost half of all Canadians (47%) lived in a couple-with-children household and another 24% lived in a couple-only household (Table 4.1). Close to 12% of all Canadians lived alone and 7% lived in a lone-parent household. Still another 11% lived in either another single family-type grouping or in a multiple-family household.

Comparison across age groups revealed that up to age 54, half of all Canadians lived in a couple-with-children household. However, only 8% of Canadians aged 65 and over lived in this type of household. The

proportion of Canadians living alone was about 10% up to age 64, and increased to 31% among people aged 65 and over. The higher proportion of seniors living alone reflects the increasing prevalence of widowhood at older ages, particularly among older women.

Couple-only households were most common among people aged 65 and over (48%) and people aged 55-64 (47%). Only 9% of those aged 15-24, 22% of those aged 25-34, 10% of people aged 35-44, and 25% of people aged 45-54 lived in couple-only households. The proportion of Canadians living in lone-parent households ranged from a high of 11% at ages 15-24 to a low of 4% at ages 65 and over.

By gender, the distribution of household type varied little. Nonetheless, more women (9%) reported living in lone-parent households than did men (5%). Conversely, more men (50%) reported living in a couple-with-children household than did women (43%).

Comparison of household type by age and gender revealed few differences, except among people aged 65 and over. While 42% of women in this age group lived alone, only 16% of men did so. Men (64%) were more likely to live with their spouse than were women (37%). This reflects the greater likelihood of women outliving their husbands. In addition, more men aged 65 and over (12%) reported living in a couple with children household than women (5%).

#### *Economics of household type*

Overall in 1990, 34% of Canadians lived in households with a total household income of \$30,000 to \$59,999 (Text Table 4.1). Another 19% lived in households with an income of \$60,000 or more and 17% in households with an income of \$15,000 to \$29,999. Yet another 9% of Canadians lived in households with an income of less than \$15,000.

Variations in income level by household type were apparent. People who lived alone and lone-parent households were more prevalent in the less than \$15,000 income group than any other household type. In fact, 33% of people who lived alone and 16% of lone-parent households had a household income of less than \$15,000. This compares with just 11% of couple-only households, 2% of couples-with-children households and 10% of multiple-family households. Couples-with-children households were more highly concentrated in the upper income groups. Fully 40% of couple-with-children households and 34% of couple-

only households had an annual income of \$30,000 to \$59,999. While only 3% of people living alone and 7% of lone-parent households had an annual income of \$60,000 or more, 26% of couples-with-children households and 16% of couple-only households had an equivalent income.

#### *Number of income earners*

In 1990, over half of all Canadians (52%) lived in dual-earner households, while another 23% lived in single-earner households (Text Table 4.2). Only 13% of households had three earners and 9% had four or more.

Comparison by age group revealed that, in 1990, dual-earner households were the most prevalent type of household for all age groups. However, those aged 25-34 (67%) and aged 35-44 (60%) were more likely than all others to live in a dual-earner household. Single-earner households were least common among people aged 15-24 (11%) and most common among those aged 65 and over (35%). Young Canadians aged 15-24 were more likely than others to live in households with three or more income earners.

As would be expected, households with only one income tended to be more concentrated in the lower income groups than households with multiple earners. For example, 26% of single-earner households had an income of less than \$15,000 (data not shown). Only 6% of dual-earner households and 2% of three-earner households had this level of income. Most dual-earner households (38%) had incomes of \$30,000 to \$59,999 and 21% had an income of \$60,000 or more. More than half of all three- and four- (or more) earner households had an income of \$30,000 or more (data not shown).

#### **4.2.2 Emotional Supports**

##### *Emotional supports when a bit down or depressed*

When a bit down or depressed, most married\* Canadians (57%) would turn to their spouse or partner for support (Table 4.2). Another 15% reported that they would turn to a friend, 10% to a relative and 6% to a professional. For unmarried Canadians, most (48%) would seek support from a friend and 16% from a parent. For this analysis, unmarried includes people

\* Includes both legally married people and people in common-law relationships.

**TEXT TABLE 4.1****Total household income by age group and household type, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Age group and household type	Total household income											
	Total population		Less than \$15,000		\$15,000 to \$29,999		\$30,000 to \$59,999		\$60,000 or more		Do not know/ Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>All age groups</b>												
Total	20,526	100	1,916	9	3,430	17	6,904	34	3,854	19	4,421	22
Person living alone	2,438	100	801	33	629	26	488	20	76	3	444	18
Couple only	4,920	100	550	11	1,000	20	1,653	34	785	16	932	19
Couple with children	9,575	100	181	2	1,165	12	3,807	40	2,488	26	1,933	20
Lone parent with children	1,434	100	225	16	330	23	350	24	101	7	428	30
Other one-family households	1,141	100	58	5	154	13	359	31	213	19	357	31
Multiple-family households	1,018	100	101	10	152	15	247	24	191	19	327	32
<b>15-64</b>												
Total	17,735	100	1,146	6	2,750	16	6,580	37	3,742	21	3,517	20
Person living alone	1,584	100	392	25	488	31	444	28	64	4	196	12
Couple only	3,571	100	235	7	585	16	1,456	41	728	20	567	16
Couple with children	9,354	100	168	2	1,120	12	3,763	40	2,467	26	1,835	20
Lone parent with children	1,311	100	210	16	297	23	331	25	98	7	374	29
Other one-family households	958	100	48	5	115	12	344	36	195	20	256	27
Multiple-family households	957	100	92	10	145	15	242	25	189	20	289	30
<b>65 and over</b>												
Total	2,790	100	770	28	680	24	325	12	112	4	903	32
Person living alone	854	100	409	48	140	16	44	5	--	--	248	29
Couple only	1,349	100	315	23	415	31	197	15	56	4	366	27
Couple with children	221	100	--	--	45	20	44	20	--	--	98	44
Lone parent with children	123	100	--	--	34	27	--	--	--	--	54	43
Other one-family households	183	100	--	--	39	21	--	--	--	--	101	55
Multiple-family households	61	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	62

General Social Survey, 1990

who are separated or divorced and not in a current relationship, as well as never-married people. Another 20% would seek out a relative and 6% would turn to a professional for help.

Married men (62%) were more likely than married women (51%) to turn to their spouse or partner for

support. Conversely, more married women (19%) said they would seek out a friend than would men (11%). Married women (13%) were also more likely to turn to a relative than were men (7%).

Unmarried men (49%) reported a slightly greater reliance on friends when a bit down or depressed than

**TEXT TABLE 4.2**

Total number of household earners by age group, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Age group	Total number of household earners											
	Total population		One earner		Two earners		Three earners		Four or more earners		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
All age groups	20,526	100	4,658	23	10,752	52	2,678	13	1,909	9	528	3
15-24	3,838	100	423	11	1,315	34	1,098	29	939	24	64	2
25-34	4,706	100	948	20	3,153	67	348	7	183	4	74	2
35-44	4,080	100	853	21	2,458	60	371	9	308	8	90	2
45-64	5,110	100	1,460	29	2,377	47	699	14	416	8	158	3
65 +	2,790	100	974	35	1,449	52	163	6	63	2	141	5

General Social Survey, 1990

did unmarried women (46%). As well, unmarried men (19%) were more likely to report they would rely on their parents than would unmarried women (14%). However, more unmarried women (24%) than men (15%) said they would seek support from a relative (Table 4.2). Regardless of marital status, women reported a wider range of people they could rely on for emotional support.

When the married population was sub-divided into legally married and common law, reliance on partners was slightly less prevalent among people in common-law unions. Women in common-law unions (47%) were less likely than legally married women (52%) to talk to their spouse or partner. Equal proportions of legally married men and men in common-law unions (62%) reported they would turn to their spouse or partner (data not shown).

Comparison by age group revealed that with increasing age, married Canadians (i.e., married or common law) were less likely turn to their spouse or partner when a bit upset. For example, 64% of people aged 15-34 would turn to their spouse or partner, while only 41% of people aged 65 and over would do the same (Table 4.2). While younger married Canadians reported a greater reliance on friends when depressed, more older Canadians reported relatives and professionals as sources of support.

For unmarried Canadians, with increasing age, the prominence of friends as a source of support diminished. However, relatives grew in importance as sources of support for older unmarried Canadians.

Among most younger married men, spouses or partners were the primary source of support. However, with increasing age, relatives and professionals were reported with increasing frequency. As well, older married men were more likely than younger men to have reported that they did not know to whom they would talk. At younger ages, friends predominated as sources of support for unmarried men. At older ages, relatives, professionals and friends were cited as sources of support.

Among most married women, spouses or partners were reported as sources of support when a bit down or depressed. However, with increasing age, the proportion reporting their spouses or partners declined, while relatives were reported with increasing frequency. For unmarried women, friends were the primary sources of support at younger ages, while at older ages, relatives became the primary sources of support.

### *Emotional supports when upset with a spouse or partner*

When upset with a spouse or partner, 25% of married\* Canadians would turn to a friend for support (Table 4.3). Another 17% would seek support from a professional. Fully 12% said they would not seek support from anyone and 13% either would turn to someone else or did not know to whom they would turn (data not shown separately).

Comparison by gender revealed few differences between men and women. However, more married women (27%) than married men (22%) reported a friend as a potential source of support. Men (15%) were more likely than women (9%) to have reported they would not talk to anyone when upset with their spouse or partner.

Comparison by age revealed that young married Canadians were more likely to seek support from friends and parents than older Canadians. In fact, 32% of Canadians aged 15-34 and 25% of those aged 35-64 would seek out a friend when upset with their spouse or partner. This proportion dropped to 6% among people aged 65 and over. In addition, 26% of married Canadians aged 15-34 reported parents as a source of support, compared with 5% of those aged 35-64.

Conversely, older married Canadians reported greater reliance on their own children and professionals than did younger Canadians. Fully 21% of married Canadians aged 65 and over would not talk to anyone when upset with a spouse. This compares with 13% of those aged 35-64 and 7% of those aged 15-34. As well, a larger proportion of older Canadians (28%) aged 65 and over reported they would either turn to someone else or did not know to whom they would turn. Only 14% of people aged 35-64 and 6% aged 15-34 reported the same.

Regardless of age group, men were more likely than women to report they would not seek support or did not know to whom they would turn, whereas a larger proportion of women in all age groups would turn to a friend.

With increasing age, the proportion of married women who reported their parents, friends and siblings as sources of support when upset with a spouse or partner

diminished, while the proportions reporting their children, professionals and no one increased. For men, the pattern by age was similar to that of women, however, with increasing age more men reported they did not know to whom they would turn for support.

### **4.2.3 Satisfaction**

An overwhelming majority of Canadians perceived themselves to be satisfied on all eight dimensions of family and work life (Table 4.4). In fact, 90% reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their spouse/partner or single status, 93% with their immediate family and 85% with the sharing of housework. Another 86% were very or somewhat satisfied with their job or main activity, 93% with their relationship with friends and 90% with their accommodation or housing. The proportion of the population satisfied with the balance between job and family was slightly lower, 81%. As well, 74% of Canadians were very or somewhat satisfied with the time they had for other interests.

The very high levels of self-reported satisfaction would mean that Canadians, overall, are indeed rather content compared, for example, to war-torn and troubled parts of the world seen each evening on the television news. It could be, however, that asking people directly about their overall levels of satisfaction does not tap into dissatisfactions with specific aspects of life.

Comparison by age and gender revealed few differences in the proportions of Canadians who reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their immediate family, their job or main activity, relationships with friends or their accommodation. A larger proportion of Canadians aged 55-64 (85%) and aged 65 and over (87%) reported being satisfied with the time they had for other interests than did younger Canadians. This compares with only 66% of people aged 25-34 and people aged 35-44. Approximately three-quarters of people in the groups aged 15-24 and 45-54 reported being very or somewhat satisfied with this area of their lives. A slightly larger proportion of women, in most age groups, reported being very or somewhat satisfied with time for other interests than did men.

For satisfaction with spouse/partner or single status, sharing of housework, balance between job and family and time for other interests, analysis was done by marital status, age and gender. The overwhelming majority of married Canadians (96%) and people living common law (95%) reported that they were very or

\* Includes both legally married people and people in common-law relationships.

somewhat satisfied with their spouse or partner (Table 4.5). There were few differences by either age or gender. Fewer unmarried\* individuals (83%) reported being satisfied with their single status. The proportion of unmarried Canadians very or somewhat satisfied with their marital status, was highest among the youngest group, declined among the middle-age groups, then increased for those aged 65 and over, but not reaching the proportion among the youngest (data not shown).

Satisfaction with the sharing of housework varied by gender. However, few differences by either marital status or age were noted. While 94% of married men and 95% of men living common law were satisfied with the sharing of housework, a smaller proportion of married women (86%) and women living common law (86%) reported the same.

Overall, 81% of married Canadians were very or somewhat satisfied with the balance between job and family. Few differences by age or gender were apparent. However, among people living common law, a larger proportion of women (84%) regardless of age group, reported being somewhat or very satisfied with this aspect of their lives than did men (78%).

## 4.3 DISCUSSION

### *Household types*

Findings from the 1990 General Social Survey on living arrangements and household types are generally consistent with previous research (Boyd, 1988; Harrison, 1981; Ram, 1990). Household structure is changing in Canada, not surprisingly in light of family and economic changes. Diversity in living arrangements is clear, with nearly half of Canadians living in couples-with-children households, about one-quarter living in couple-only households, almost 12% living alone, 7% in lone-parent households, another 11% in either other one-family households or multiple-family households. Income and age vary distinctly across household types, with people in single-person households and lone-parent households having the least income, and those in couple-with-children and couple-only households having the most income. Living alone is most prevalent among the older population.

Several conclusions can be drawn from these findings. First, household types, although diverse, represent less of a range of opportunities for people than a circumstance of their socio-economic status and age. For example, the greater number of older people, particularly women, who live alone, may be the result of less a choice than a function of women outliving their husbands. Lone parents, who are primarily women, are more often in low income groups as a function of their family status (McKie, 1993:63). Those living in multiple-family households and in other family-type groupings reflect growth in the "cluttered nest" (Boyd & Pryor, 1989), the phenomenon of adult children returning to or not leaving the parental home. It is also the result of older parents or relatives moving in with their adult children and their families.

Growth in couple-only families occurred between 1981 and 1991 (Statistics Canada, 1993b:8). The growth was due to a slight increase in childless couples, but also to a large growth (40%) over this decade in "empty-nest" families, families where the children have grown up and left home. At the same time, the overall number of families during this decade grew by 16% (Statistics Canada, 1993b:8), suggesting that families continue to be popular, however, people are living in increasingly diverse families.

Living alone has grown significantly in Canada in recent years (Barnawal & Ram, 1985; Harrison, 1981; Ram, 1990:44-45; Statistics Canada, 1993b), while the proportion of all households living in families has declined (Statistics Canada, 1993b). Over the 1951 to 1986 period, those in one-person households grew from 7.4% to 21.5% (Ram, 1990:45). In part, the growth in living alone reflects population aging since it is the elderly who more often live alone, but it also reflects preference, housing availability and family change. Family change is important since the greater diversity in families means that more time is spent by individuals outside of families and possibly living alone, such as when divorced, separated, between unions or prior to marriage among young people.

Lone-parent families experienced a 16% increase in Canada between 1986 and 1991 (Statistics Canada, 1992). Most of these, 84%, are headed by women. Lone-parent families headed by women tend to have less income and are more often living in rented and smaller dwellings (Statistics Canada, 1993b:10). About 56% of the female lone-parent households who rented spent 30% of their income on shelter, compared with husband-wife families who spent 22%, according to the 1991 Census (Statistics Canada, 1993b:10).

\* Unmarried includes never married, widowed, divorced and separated.

Variations in income by household type found in the 1990 GSS are found as well in the 1991 Census (Statistics Canada, 1993a). While real family incomes increased over the 1985 to 1990 period, it was only husband-wife families where both worked who maintained their income levels over the earlier period of 1980 to 1985 (Love & Poulin, 1991; Statistics Canada, 1993a:3). Family incomes vary widely by the number of income earners in households. Those with earners (pensioners, the unemployed, welfare recipients, etc.) and those with one earner have the lowest incomes by far, while those households with more than one earner have higher incomes (Statistics Canada, 1993:6). This may mean that families are as much as ever, if not more than ever, economic units.

### *Emotional supports*

Information on emotional supports is not asked in censuses, so the 1990 GSS provides the first nationally representative data. Findings are consistent with smaller previous studies on social supports (reported in Angus, 1991; Chappell, 1992; Chappell & Badger, 1989; McDaniel, 1992; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993).

The connections that people have with others are now known to have important implications for physical, mental and emotional well-being (Chappell & Badger, 1989; Health and Welfare Canada, 1986). These connections are often presumed to exist, so that questions are thought unnecessary about how they work and how they might not work for everyone. The findings from the 1990 GSS are truly instructive on gender and family patterns of support and who, and how many, are isolated from support.

That spouses emerge as such important sources of emotional support can be interpreted as both good and bad. The good occurs for those who have spouses at all and for those whose spouses are understanding and supportive. The bad occurs for those who live without spouses, which includes a high proportion of older women whose spouses have predeceased them (McDaniel, 1989), as well as a growing number of others who live alone, and for those whose spouse does not or cannot provide the needed emotional support when called upon.

That married men rely more heavily on spouses than married women can have several interpretations and implications. Men seem to put more reliance on spouses as the sole source of emotional support. Women of all ages tend to diversify their sources of

support more. One implication would be that men more than women, on the death or loss of a spouse, might become emotionally needy and socially isolated (McDaniel, 1992; 1993; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993 analyze these findings more fully). Another implication might be that women are more connected to social networks than men and thus, have a range of people on whom they could call in times of need. Still another is that it might be that men are more emotionally tied to spouses than was previously understood. This would require further research.

The patterns of emotional supports by age are also revealing. While younger Canadians would rely more on friends and parents, older people rely more on relatives and professionals. Recent program cuts in a variety of jurisdictions might leave more seniors with no one to turn to in time of need. It is striking that 21% of people over age 65 (more men than women) report in 1990 that, if they were upset with their spouse, they would not turn to anyone for support.

### *Satisfactions with family and living arrangements*

Among findings from the 1990 GSS, the most difficult to interpret are those on satisfactions. The challenge stems from the reality that the questions on satisfaction do not elicit a range of responses. It is rather like being asked the proverbial question, "How are you?" Even if we are not well, most of us respond "Fine" when asked this question. The same seems to be the case for questions about life satisfaction and satisfaction with family and friends. The interpretation put on responses to life satisfaction questions is therefore very important. It is important not to overinterpret the findings because misleading conclusions, such as that all Canadians are generally satisfied with their lives, may or may not be valid with data such as these.

Hints emerge from an oblique approach to these data. Rather than focusing on the overwhelmingly high reported rates of satisfaction found here, it seems more useful to focus on differences in satisfaction across groups and to focus, to some degree, on those who report being dissatisfied as well. A small difference is apparent, for example, in satisfaction levels among those who are married, compared to those who are unmarried, with the former generally reporting higher levels of satisfaction. Unmarried younger people are more satisfied than older unmarrieds, while among those living common law, women tend to be more satisfied than men. In analyses not shown here, those who live in a couple-without-children setting are more

satisfied than those in couples with children. Those who live alone or with siblings are less satisfied on average than others.

Although the proportions who report dissatisfactions are not large, the patterns are interesting. The main dissatisfaction occurs with respect to shared housework, and it is women who are most dissatisfied. In light of consistent research findings that women continue to bear most of the responsibility for housework whether or not they work as well outside the home (Lupri & Mills, 1987; Luxton & Rosenberg, 1986; Meissner, 1975), women's lack of complete satisfaction with this aspect of their lives is not entirely surprising. The surprise is rather that they report being as satisfied as they do: 86% of women who are married, and the same percent of those living common law report being satisfied with the division of labour for housework in their families.

Time to do the things one wants to do seems to be what is missing most among Canadians, if any interpretation can be put on these overwhelmingly positive responses. It is those in mid-life, aged 25-44, where only 66% (this is low compared to the very high levels of satisfaction reported by others and on other questions) report being satisfied with the time they have.

What can be concluded about this series of questions and answers? Firstly, not much can really be said about overall satisfaction levels among Canadians. Questions asked in the 1990 GSS on satisfaction are very general and provide only a broad indication of satisfaction levels in the population. Secondly, self-reported satisfaction may not be useful at all in social research. This could be argued in light of the wide gap between what people actually respond about their satisfactions and what research that relies on other measures, such as health or overall well-being (Keith & Landry, 1992) tells us about how well people are doing objectively. On the one hand, it could be that more objective measures are inaccurate reflections as well. On the other hand, it could be that people will try to put the best face on their situations. Extreme caution is advised in interpreting these findings. It cannot simply be concluded that Canadians on average are satisfied with their lives. Likely, the truth is, that many are satisfied, others are not at all but do not say so explicitly and that the patterns of not saying so are not random.

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TABLE 4.1

Household type by gender and age group, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender and age group	Household type											
	Total population		Person living alone		Couple only		Couple with children		Lone parent with children		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
All age groups	20,526	100	2,438	12	4,920	24	9,575	47	1,434	7	2,159	11
15-24	3,838	100	194	5	360	9	2,244	58	431	11	609	16
25-34	4,706	100	466	10	1,015	22	2,373	50	273	6	579	12
35-44	4,080	100	347	9	397	10	2,689	66	271	7	376	9
45-54	2,768	100	256	9	692	25	1,417	51	190	7	212	8
55-64	2,342	100	320	14	1,107	47	631	27	145	6	139	6
65 +	2,790	100	854	31	1,349	48	221	8	123	4	244	9
<b>Men</b>												
All age groups	10,038	100	1,045	10	2,384	24	5,066	50	497	5	1,045	10
15-24	1,955	100	99	5	137	7	1,240	63	208	11	270	14
25-34	2,339	100	309	13	497	21	1,129	48	94	4	311	13
35-44	2,025	100	205	10	194	10	1,341	66	61	3	224	11
45-54	1,378	100	117	9	281	20	827	60	46	3	107	8
55-64	1,148	100	128	11	513	45	384	33	61	5	61	5
65 +	1,193	100	186	16	763	64	145	12	27	2	71	6
<b>Women</b>												
All age groups	10,487	100	1,393	13	2,536	24	4,509	43	937	9	1,114	11
15-24	1,884	100	95	5	223	12	1,004	53	223	12	339	18
25-34	2,368	100	157	7	519	22	1,244	53	180	8	268	11
35-44	2,055	100	142	7	204	10	1,348	66	210	10	151	7
45-54	1,390	100	139	10	411	30	591	42	144	10	106	8
55-64	1,194	100	193	16	594	50	246	21	83	7	78	6
65 +	1,597	100	667	42	585	37	75	5	96	6	173	11

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 4.2**

**Who people turn to first for help when feeling a bit down or depressed by age group, gender and selected marital status, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Age group, gender and selected marital status	Who people turn to first when feeling a bit down or depressed															
	Total population		Spouse/ Partner		Parent		Relative <sup>1</sup>		Friend <sup>2</sup>		Profes- sional <sup>3</sup>		No one		Other/ Don't know/ Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>All age groups</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>4</sup>	20,526	100	7,535	37	1,756	9	2,855	14	5,497	27	1,249	6	845	4	788	4
Married/common law	12,866	100	7,325	57	545	4	1,331	10	1,898	15	789	6	489	4	490	4
Unmarried	7,551	100	193	3	1,209	16	1,508	20	3,588	48	451	6	348	5	255	3
Men																
Total <sup>4</sup>	10,038	100	4,124	41	876	9	1,014	10	2,449	24	591	6	509	5	475	5
Married/common law	6,430	100	4,016	62	211	3	479	7	688	11	391	6	316	5	329	5
Unmarried	3,553	100	103	3	662	19	530	15	1,754	49	193	5	190	5	121	3
Women																
Total <sup>4</sup>	10,487	100	3,411	33	880	8	1,841	18	3,048	29	658	6	336	3	314	3
Married/common law	6,437	100	3,310	51	334	5	853	13	1,209	19	398	6	173	3	161	2
Unmarried	3,997	100	90	2	546	14	978	24	1,833	46	258	6	158	4	134	3
<b>15-34</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>4</sup>	8,545	100	2,690	31	1,449	17	686	8	3,190	37	229	3	167	2	133	2
Married/common law	3,929	100	2,510	64	374	10	225	6	603	15	94	2	68	2	56	1
Unmarried	4,603	100	176	4	1,075	23	460	10	2,586	56	136	3	98	2	72	2
Men																
Total <sup>4</sup>	4,294	100	1,293	30	742	17	326	8	1,589	37	123	3	119	3	101	2
Married/common law	1,754	100	1,196	68	136	8	81	5	226	13	31	2	46	3	37	2
Unmarried	2,534	100	94	4	606	24	245	10	1,363	54	92	4	74	3	59	2
Women																
Total <sup>4</sup>	4,251	100	1,398	33	707	17	360	8	1,601	38	106	2	47	1	33	1
Married/common law	2,176	100	1,314	60	238	11	143	7	377	17	63	3	—	—	—	—
Unmarried	2,069	100	82	4	469	23	216	10	1,223	59	43	2	24	1	—	—
<b>35-64</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>4</sup>	9,191	100	4,158	45	305	3	1,217	13	1,955	21	712	8	473	5	371	4
Married/common law	7,287	100	4,134	57	169	2	713	10	1,165	16	524	7	309	4	271	4
Unmarried	1,850	100	—	—	133	7	501	27	782	42	186	10	158	9	79	4
Men																
Total <sup>4</sup>	4,551	100	2,403	53	134	3	419	9	745	16	335	7	292	6	223	5
Married/common law	3,729	100	2,395	64	75	2	221	6	415	11	257	7	197	5	170	5
Unmarried	793	100	—	—	57	7	197	25	327	41	74	9	93	12	40	5
Women																
Total <sup>4</sup>	4,639	100	1,755	38	171	4	798	17	1,210	26	378	8	181	4	148	3
Married/common law	3,557	100	1,739	49	95	3	492	14	751	21	266	7	112	3	101	3
Unmarried	1,057	100	—	—	76	7	304	29	456	43	111	11	64	6	39	4
<b>65 +</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>4</sup>	2,790	100	686	25	—	—	953	34	351	13	307	11	206	7	284	10
Married/common law	1,651	100	681	41	—	—	393	24	129	8	171	10	112	7	163	10
Unmarried	1,098	100	—	—	—	—	547	50	219	20	129	12	92	8	104	9
Men																
Total <sup>4</sup>	1,193	100	428	36	—	—	269	23	114	10	133	11	98	8	151	13
Married/common law	947	100	425	45	—	—	176	19	48	5	102	11	74	8	122	13
Unmarried	227	100	—	—	—	—	88	39	64	28	26	12	23	10	—	—
Women																
Total <sup>4</sup>	1,597	100	258	16	—	—	684	43	237	15	174	11	108	7	133	8
Married/common law	704	100	256	36	—	—	217	31	81	12	69	10	38	5	41	6
Unmarried	871	100	—	—	—	—	459	53	155	18	103	12	69	8	82	9

<sup>1</sup> Relative includes son, daughter, sibling, other relatives and in-laws.

<sup>2</sup> Friend includes neighbour and someone you work with.

<sup>3</sup> Professional includes counsellors, doctors, church, God or clergy.

<sup>4</sup> Includes population who did not state their marital status.

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 4.3

Who people turn to first for help when upset with spouse or partner<sup>1</sup> by age group, gender and selected marital status, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Age group, gender and selected marital status	Who people turn to when upset with spouse or partner															
	Total population		Parent		Child		Relative <sup>2</sup>		Friend <sup>3</sup>		Professional <sup>4</sup>		No one		Other/ Don't know/ Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>All age groups</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>5</sup>	20,526	100	2,868	14	1,395	7	2,611	13	5,596	27	2,920	14	2,320	11	2,816	14
Married/common law	12,866	100	1,432	11	1,089	8	1,760	14	3,162	25	2,140	17	1,568	12	1,716	13
Unmarried	7,551	100	1,433	19	299	4	843	11	2,426	32	776	10	738	10	1,036	14
Men																
Total <sup>5</sup>	10,038	100	1,372	14	514	5	1,255	13	2,640	26	1,352	13	1,328	13	1,576	16
Married/common law	6,430	100	647	10	448	7	833	13	1,417	22	1,017	16	971	15	1,096	17
Unmarried	3,553	100	725	20	62	2	419	12	1,219	34	334	9	350	10	445	13
Women																
Total <sup>5</sup>	10,487	100	1,496	14	881	8	1,355	13	2,956	28	1,567	15	992	9	1,240	12
Married/common law	6,437	100	785	12	640	10	927	14	1,745	27	1,123	17	597	9	620	10
Unmarried	3,997	100	709	18	237	6	424	11	1,207	30	442	11	387	10	591	15
<b>15-34</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>5</sup>	8,545	100	2,363	28	—	—	1,302	15	3,174	37	642	8	483	6	557	7
Married/common law	3,929	100	1,034	26	—	—	732	19	1,273	32	376	10	273	7	236	6
Unmarried	4,603	100	1,328	29	—	—	570	12	1,899	41	266	6	209	5	311	7
Men																
Total <sup>5</sup>	4,294	100	1,143	27	—	—	600	14	1,546	36	315	7	332	8	352	8
Married/common law	1,754	100	458	26	—	—	292	17	521	30	160	9	173	10	148	8
Unmarried	2,534	100	685	27	—	—	308	12	1,023	40	155	6	159	6	200	8
Women																
Total <sup>5</sup>	4,251	100	1,220	29	—	—	702	17	1,628	38	327	8	151	4	204	5
Married/common law	2,176	100	577	26	—	—	439	20	751	35	215	10	100	5	88	4
Unmarried	2,069	100	643	31	—	—	262	13	877	42	112	5	50	2	111	5
<b>35-64</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>5</sup>	9,191	100	498	5	756	8	1,163	13	2,244	24	1,900	21	1,259	14	1,371	15
Married/common law	7,287	100	394	5	661	9	937	13	1,789	25	1,530	21	955	13	1,021	14
Unmarried	1,850	100	101	5	93	5	224	12	449	24	367	20	294	16	321	17
Men																
Total <sup>5</sup>	4,551	100	229	5	275	6	596	13	1,031	23	881	19	723	16	816	18
Married/common law	3,729	100	189	5	247	7	492	13	851	23	728	20	568	15	653	18
Unmarried	793	100	40	5	28	4	101	13	178	22	152	19	150	19	145	18
Women																
Total <sup>5</sup>	4,639	100	269	6	482	10	567	12	1,212	26	1,019	22	536	12	555	12
Married/common law	3,557	100	205	6	415	12	444	12	937	26	802	23	387	11	367	10
Unmarried	1,057	100	62	6	65	6	123	12	271	26	216	20	144	14	177	17
<b>65 +</b>																
Both genders																
Total <sup>5</sup>	2,790	100	—	—	615	22	146	5	178	6	378	14	579	21	888	32
Married/common law	1,651	100	—	—	421	26	92	6	100	6	234	14	340	21	459	28
Unmarried	1,098	100	—	—	187	17	49	4	78	7	142	13	234	21	403	37
Men																
Total <sup>5</sup>	1,193	100	—	—	235	20	59	5	62	5	157	13	273	23	407	34
Married/common law	947	100	—	—	201	21	48	5	44	5	128	14	230	24	295	31
Unmarried	227	100	—	—	30	13	—	—	—	—	28	12	41	18	100	44
Women																
Total <sup>5</sup>	1,597	100	—	—	380	24	87	5	116	7	221	14	305	19	481	30
Married/common law	704	100	—	—	220	31	44	6	56	8	106	15	110	16	164	23
Unmarried	871	100	—	—	157	18	40	5	60	7	114	13	193	22	304	35

<sup>1</sup> Phrased hypothetically for unmarried population.

<sup>2</sup> Relative includes siblings, other relatives and in-laws.

<sup>3</sup> Friend includes neighbour and someone you work with.

<sup>4</sup> Professional includes counsellors, doctors, lawyers, church, God or clergy.

<sup>5</sup> Includes population who did not state their marital status.

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 4.4**

Satisfaction with selected aspects of life by age group, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Satisfaction with selected aspects of life	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Total population</b>	20,526	100	3,838	100	4,706	100	4,080	100	2,768	100	2,342	100	2,790	100
<b>With spouse, partner, single status</b>														
Satisfied	18,549	90	3,442	90	4,296	91	3,717	91	2,510	91	2,092	89	2,494	89
Dissatisfied	1,486	7	310	8	354	8	279	7	185	7	191	8	167	6
No opinion/Not stated	490	2	87	2	57	1	84	2	73	3	59	3	129	5
<b>With immediate family</b>														
Satisfied	19,174	93	3,604	94	4,421	94	3,770	92	2,552	92	2,235	95	2,592	93
Dissatisfied	929	5	201	5	247	5	223	5	133	5	59	3	67	2
No opinion/Not stated	422	2	33	1	39	1	88	2	82	3	48	2	132	5
<b>With way housework shared</b>														
Satisfied	17,523	85	3,337	87	4,050	86	3,479	85	2,349	85	2,039	87	2,268	81
Dissatisfied	1,534	7	353	9	403	9	382	9	223	8	108	5	65	2
No opinion/Not stated	1,469	7	149	4	253	5	219	5	196	7	196	8	456	16
<b>With job or main activity</b>														
Satisfied	17,656	86	3,319	86	4,069	86	3,508	86	2,373	86	2,058	88	2,329	83
Dissatisfied	2,055	10	467	12	579	12	460	11	278	10	165	7	106	4
No opinion/Not stated	815	4	53	1	59	1	113	3	117	4	118	5	356	13
<b>With balance between job and family</b>														
Satisfied	16,543	81	3,231	84	3,699	79	3,192	78	2,287	83	2,015	86	2,119	76
Dissatisfied	2,388	12	461	12	834	18	653	16	273	10	119	5	48	2
No opinion/Not stated	1,594	8	147	4	173	4	235	6	209	8	207	9	623	22
<b>With time for other interests</b>														
Satisfied	15,152	74	2,828	74	3,123	66	2,707	66	2,088	75	1,991	85	2,415	87
Dissatisfied	4,711	23	968	25	1,514	32	1,246	31	576	21	273	12	133	5
No opinion/Not stated	662	3	42	1	70	1	128	3	103	4	78	3	241	9
<b>With relationships with friends</b>														
Satisfied	19,073	93	3,670	96	4,366	93	3,732	91	2,578	93	2,187	93	2,540	91
Dissatisfied	746	4	124	3	264	6	204	5	63	2	59	3	31	1
No opinion/Not stated	706	3	44	1	76	2	144	4	127	5	95	4	219	8
<b>With accommodation or housing</b>														
Satisfied	18,554	90	3,469	90	4,100	87	3,661	90	2,528	91	2,204	94	2,592	93
Dissatisfied	1,647	8	317	8	569	12	359	9	172	6	106	5	124	4
No opinion/Not stated	324	2	52	1	37	1	61	1	68	2	32	1	75	3

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 4.5**

Satisfaction with selected aspects of life by marital status and gender, population aged 15 and over,  
Canada, 1990

Satisfaction with selected aspects of life	Marital Status															
	Total <sup>1</sup>				Married				Common law				Unmarried <sup>2</sup>			
	Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>Total population</b>	10,038	100	10,487	100	5,628	100	5,649	100	802	100	788	100	3,553	100	3,997	100
<b>With spouse, partner, single status</b>																
Satisfied	9,129	91	9,420	90	5,434	97	5,336	94	772	96	746	95	2,916	82	3,318	83
Dissatisfied	663	7	824	8	117	2	243	4	—	—	33	4	519	15	546	14
No opinion/Not stated	247	2	243	2	77	1	70	1	—	—	—	—	119	3	134	3
<b>With immediate family</b>																
Satisfied	9,326	93	9,848	94	5,354	95	5,402	96	720	90	729	93	3,245	91	3,696	92
Dissatisfied	483	5	446	4	184	3	179	3	65	8	43	5	229	6	222	6
No opinion/Not stated	229	2	193	2	89	2	69	1	—	—	—	—	79	2	79	2
<b>With way housework shared</b>																
Satisfied	8,940	89	8,583	82	5,309	94	4,839	86	765	95	678	86	2,859	80	3,052	76
Dissatisfied	426	4	1,108	11	178	3	687	12	—	—	89	11	224	6	331	8
No opinion/Not stated	672	7	797	8	141	3	123	2	—	—	—	—	471	13	614	15
<b>With job or main activity</b>																
Satisfied	8,531	85	9,125	87	4,885	87	5,059	90	686	86	686	87	2,952	83	3,362	84
Dissatisfied	1,152	11	902	9	549	10	382	7	101	13	84	11	501	14	436	11
No opinion/Not stated	355	4	459	4	193	3	209	4	—	—	—	—	101	3	199	5
<b>With balance between job and family</b>																
Satisfied	8,041	80	8,503	81	4,558	81	4,644	82	622	78	659	84	2,857	80	3,181	80
Dissatisfied	1,310	13	1,078	10	731	13	555	10	140	17	102	13	438	12	419	10
No opinion/Not stated	687	7	907	9	340	6	450	8	40	5	26	3	259	7	397	10
<b>With time for other interests</b>																
Satisfied	7,332	73	7,820	75	4,134	73	4,208	74	553	69	530	67	2,638	74	3,062	77
Dissatisfied	2,352	23	2,359	22	1,307	23	1,297	23	226	28	249	32	817	23	812	20
No opinion/Not stated	354	4	308	3	188	3	145	3	—	—	—	—	98	3	124	3
<b>With relationships with friends</b>																
Satisfied	9,299	93	9,774	93	5,222	93	5,322	94	736	92	717	91	3,332	94	3,715	93
Dissatisfied	371	4	375	4	206	4	177	3	40	5	46	6	124	3	151	4
No opinion/Not stated	368	4	338	3	200	4	150	3	—	—	—	—	98	3	131	3
<b>With accommodation or housing</b>																
Satisfied	9,100	91	9,454	90	5,205	92	5,183	92	687	86	698	89	3,196	90	3,552	89
Dissatisfied	747	7	900	9	347	6	413	7	110	14	81	10	290	8	405	10
No opinion/Not stated	191	2	133	1	76	1	53	1	—	—	—	—	67	2	40	1

<sup>1</sup> Includes population who did not state their marital status.

<sup>2</sup> Unmarried includes never married, widowed, divorced and separated.

General Social Survey, 1990

## CHAPTER 5

# HOUSEHOLD DIVISION OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

### 5.1 METHODS

Section F of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire contains many questions concerning the division of labour in the home and the types of support provided to, or received from anyone outside the household. The types of household work explored included meal preparation (F3), meal clean-up (F4), house cleaning/laundry (F5) and house maintenance, and outside work (F6). For each type of housework, respondents were asked to indicate who was primarily responsible for the task. However, if the responsibility was equally shared, respondents could indicate more than one person. Responses could include any member of the household or someone from outside the household. Analysis of household work includes only those respondents who were in a husband/wife union (i.e. married or common law) at the time of the survey.

For support questions, three main areas were examined: unpaid support provided, unpaid support received and paid support. Respondents were asked questions concerning the frequency, type, and source/recipient of support provided in the 12 months prior to the survey. Specific types of unpaid support either received or provided included housework (F8 and F10), house maintenance and outside work (F12 and F14), transportation (F16 and F18), child care (F20 and F22), and financial support (F24 and F26). Types of paid support received included meal preparation (F28a), house cleaning/laundry (F28b), house maintenance and outside work (F28c), and transportation (F28d).

### 5.2 RESULTS

#### 5.2.1 Household Division of Labour

Division of household tasks among family and household members is one of the more contentious

issues for modern families, in which it is now normative to have more than one member in the work force. The focus in this chapter is on specific household tasks (i.e. meal preparation and clean-up, house cleaning/laundry, and house maintenance and outside work) and to explore who helps with these tasks. Analyses here focus on divisions of household labour by age, sex, marital status, education and main activity. Only individuals in marriages or common-law unions were included in the analysis.

Housework is vital to the functioning of families and households, yet very much overlooked by social scientists. Recently, beginning with the work of Oakley (1974) and Meissner (1975), the issues involved in the division of household labour were explored. However, there is little information available on how housework is divided in families and households and no nationally representative data until the 1990 General Social Survey. Previous work such as Armstrong and Armstrong (1984), Glazer (1987), Lupri and Mills (1987), Luxton and Rosenberg (1986) has shown that housework is the purview of women, whether or not they also work outside the home. Little research has focussed on the role of men in housework, with some exceptions such as Harrell (1985) and Horna and Lupri (1987).

#### *Gender*

For the most part, women reported that they were primarily responsible for meal preparation (81%), meal clean-up (70%) and house cleaning/laundry (79%) (Tables 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, respectively). It is interesting to note that more men said they were primarily responsible for these activities than women who reported their spouse as responsible. For example, 12% of men said they were primarily responsible for meal preparation, while 8% of women said their husband was responsible for this activity. In addition, more men than women said that they shared

responsibility for meal clean-up (17% vs. 12%) and cleaning/laundry (13% vs. 10%). Equivalent proportions of both men and women said that neither they nor their spouse took charge of meal preparation (2%), meal clean-up (6%) and cleaning/laundry (5%).

Three-quarters of men said that they were responsible for house maintenance and outside work (Table 5.4). Here again different reporting patterns were evident. While only 5% of men said their wife was responsible for this activity, 9% of women reported themselves as primarily responsible. Fewer men (3%) and women (6%) reported that they shared house maintenance and outside work with their spouse than other household activities. On the other hand, house maintenance and outside work was more frequently reported to be done by someone other than either of the spouses. In fact, 15% of men and 17% of women said someone else was responsible.

#### *Marital status*

Men in common-law unions (17%) were more likely than married men (11%) to be primarily responsible for meal preparation, but equally likely to be responsible for meal clean-up (16% vs. 15%, respectively) and house cleaning/laundry (10% vs. 9%, respectively). Conversely, married men (76%) were more likely to be responsible for maintenance and outside work than common-law men (69%).

Among women, those in common-law unions were less likely than married women to have said they were primarily responsible for meal preparation (63% vs. 83%), meal clean-up (57% vs. 72%) and cleaning/laundry (68% vs. 80%).

Regardless of activity, both men and women living common law reported sharing responsibility for household duties more often than married people. For example, 24% of men living common law said they shared responsibility for meal preparation equally with their wife, compared with 10% of married men. Among women, 22% of women living common law versus 10% of married women said they shared responsibility for meal clean-up with their husband or partner.

It is interesting to note that there were smaller discrepancies in reporting patterns of responsibility among common-law men and women. Among men in common-law unions, 17% said they were responsible for meal preparation, while 16% of women in

common-law unions said their partner was responsible. Conversely, 11% of married men claimed responsibility for this task, while 7% of married women said their spouse was responsible.

#### *Age*

Younger Canadian women were less likely than older women to claim primary responsibility for meal preparation, meal clean-up or house cleaning/laundry. For example, 54% of women aged 15-24 and 69% of both women aged 25-34 and 35-44 reported being primarily responsible for meal clean-up, compared with 75% of women aged 55-64 and 71% of women aged 65 and over. More older than younger women said that neither they nor their spouse were responsible for house cleaning/laundry. For example, 8% of women aged 65 and over versus 3% of women aged 25-34 said this was true. The pattern for meal clean-up was different. While 11% of women aged 35-44 said someone else took charge of this task, only 4% of women aged 25-34 and 3% of women aged 65 and over said the same.

More younger and older men were responsible for meal preparation than middle-aged men. For instance, 14% of both men aged 15-24 and 25-34 and 12% of men aged 65 and over took primary responsibility for this activity, compared with only 9% of men aged 45-54. As well, 11% of men aged 25-34 and 10% of men aged 55-64 were responsible for cleaning/laundry, compared with only 6% of men aged 35-44. For house maintenance and outside work, more middle-aged men were responsible than were younger or older men. Younger and older men were more likely to report that someone other than themselves or their spouse was responsible. Specifically, 80% of men aged 35-44 and 78% of men aged 45-54 were responsible, compared with 53% of men aged 15-24 and 60% of those aged 65 and over.

Comparison by age group also revealed that, with the exception of maintenance and outside work, younger Canadians, reported sharing responsibility more frequently than older Canadians. For example, 31% of men and 21% of women aged 15-24 said they shared cleaning and laundry with their spouse compared with 9% of both men and women aged 65 and over. For maintenance, about 3% to 4% of all men and between 3% to 9% of women shared this activity with their spouse.

## **Education**

Overall, women with lower levels of education were more likely to assume responsibility for household chores than other women (Tables 5.5 to 5.8). For example, 70% of women with a university degree assumed responsibility for cleaning and laundry, compared with 77% of women with a college certificate or diploma and 84% of women with less than a secondary school education. However, they were equally likely to be responsible for maintenance and outside work (i.e., 8% to 11%). A somewhat similar proportion of women said someone other than themselves or their spouse took charge of meal preparation (0% to 2%), meal clean-up (5% to 9%) and house cleaning/laundry (3% to 8%). Women with less than a secondary school education (27%) were more likely than all others (14% to 18%) to have reported that someone else took charge of maintenance and outside work. This may in part be a reflection of age, in that older women tend to have completed fewer years of education than younger women.

Among men, responsibility did not differ greatly by educational attainment except for maintenance and outside work. For maintenance, 66% of men with less than a secondary school education were primarily responsible, compared with 74% to 79% of all other men. Men with less than a secondary school education were much more likely than others to say someone else was responsible. As with women, this may be due in part to education trends by age. Approximately equal proportions of men of all educational backgrounds reported someone other than himself or their spouse as primarily responsible for all other activities except meal clean-up. Specifically, 5% to 9% of men said someone else was responsible for meal clean-up as did 3% to 7% for cleaning/laundry and 0% to 2% for meal preparation.

With the exception of maintenance and outside work, both men and women with higher levels of education tended to report sharing of tasks with their spouse more frequently than people with lower levels of education. For example, 17% of men and 13% of women with a university degree, compared with 11% of men and 8% of women with some secondary schooling shared cleaning/laundry equally with their spouse.

## **Men and women working outside the home**

Women whose main activity was working at a job or business were significantly more likely than men with the same main activity to have reported that they were primarily responsible for meal preparation (76% vs. 11%, respectively), meal clean-up (64% vs. 14%, respectively) and cleaning/laundry (74% vs. 7%) (Text Table 5.1). Conversely, men (78%) were more likely than women (7%) to take charge of maintenance and outside work.

Equal proportions of men and women said they shared responsibility with their spouse or partner for meal preparation (12%) and cleaning/laundry (13%). More men (18%) than women (14%) shared meal clean-up with their spouse. Alternatively, more women (6%) said they shared responsibility for maintenance and outside work with their spouse than did men (3%).

### **5.2.2 Social Support**

#### *Unpaid support provided to others*

In 1990, three-quarters of Canadians said they had provided unpaid support (i.e. housework, house maintenance, transportation, child care or financial support) at least once to someone outside of their household during the 12 months prior to the survey (Figure 5.1). Men provided slightly more help (77%) than did women (72%).

Most people provided more than one type of support (48%), while another 27% provided only one type. Comparison by gender revealed that men (51%) were more likely than women (45%) to have provided more than one type of support and less likely than women to have reported that they had not provided any support (23% vs. 28%, respectively). Between 25% and 29% of Canadians in all age groups provided one type of support (data not shown). Up to age 44, more than half of Canadians provided two or more types of help. However, at older ages, the proportion dropped to about a quarter.

The proportion of people who provided support varied by type of support. Canadians were most likely to provide help with transportation (50%), followed by house maintenance and outside work (32%), child care

**TEXT TABLE 5.1**

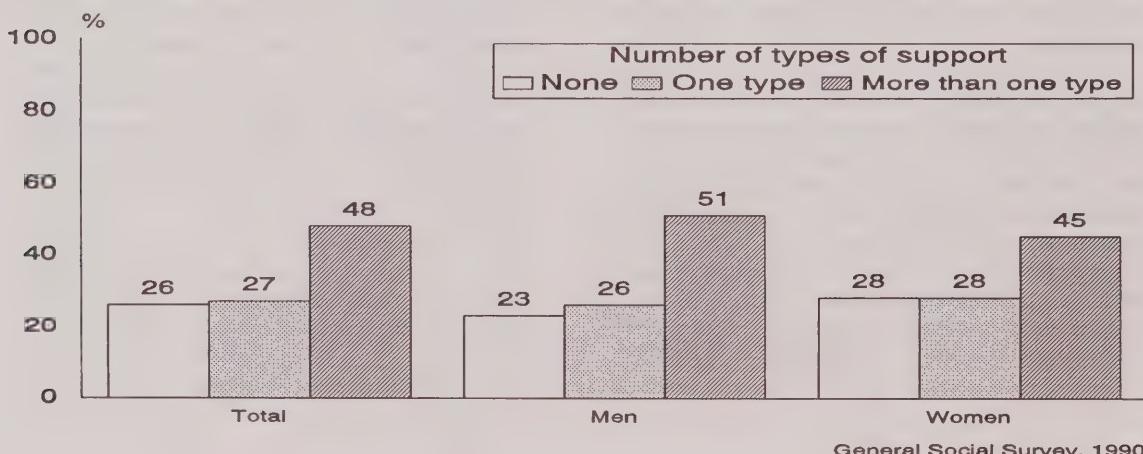
Person responsible for household task by household task and gender, married and common-law population aged 15 and over who are working outside the home, Canada, 1990

Household task and gender	Person responsible											
	Total		Self		Spouse/ partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Meal preparation</b>												
Men	4,846	100	530	11	3,560	73	604	12	123	3	--	--
Women	3,200	100	2,425	76	299	9	369	12	90	3	--	--
<b>Meal clean-up</b>												
Men	4,846	100	685	14	2,913	60	850	18	364	8	24	1
Women	3,200	100	2,059	64	402	13	459	14	270	8	--	--
<b>Cleaning and laundry</b>												
Men	4,846	100	363	7	3,572	74	652	13	226	5	--	--
Women	3,200	100	2,367	74	204	6	419	13	184	6	--	--
<b>Maintenance and outside work</b>												
Men	4,846	100	3,792	78	264	5	168	3	584	12	--	--
Women	3,200	100	225	7	2,262	71	197	6	498	16	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**FIGURE 5.1**

Proportion of population aged 15 and over providing unpaid support to people outside the household by gender and number of types of support, Canada, 1990



(32%), financial support (25%) and housework (18%) (Table 5.9). Gender differences were evident. A larger proportion of women provided help with housework (22%) and child care (39%) than men (13% and 24%, respectively). Conversely, more men provided help with house maintenance (48%), transportation (52%) and financial support (27%) than women (16%, 47% and 23%, respectively).

While many Canadians provided help, most did so less than once a month. For example, 19% said they helped with house maintenance and outside work less than once a month, while 4% did so on a weekly basis and 9% monthly. Canadians also reported helping with transportation (16%), child care (5%), housework (3%) and financial support (2%), at least once a week. As well, Canadians provided support with transportation (18%), child care (11%), financial support (7%), and housework (6%) at least once a month.

Friends were the main recipients of assistance. Overall, 51% of Canadians stated that they provided some form of help to a friend (Table 5.10). Of this, 8% provided help with housework, house maintenance and outside work (19%), transportation (35%), child care (13%), and financial support (8%). As well, 15% of Canadians said they provided help to their parents, followed by brothers or sisters (14%), sons (8%), daughters (9%) and other relatives (22%).

#### *Unpaid help received from others*

More than half of all Canadians (56%) said they had received some form of unpaid support from a person outside their household in the 12 months prior to the survey (Text Table 5.2). About one-third stated they had been helped with one type of support and 23% with two or more types. Approximately equal proportions of men (55%) and women (57%) received assistance. Comparison by age revealed that, younger

**TEXT TABLE 5.2**

Number of types of support received from outside the household by age group and gender, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender and number of types of support received	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	20,526	100	3,838	100	4,706	100	4,080	100	2,768	100	2,342	100	2,790	100
None	9,046	44	897	23	1,762	37	2,023	50	1,630	59	1,380	59	1,353	48
One type	6,753	33	1,488	39	1,599	34	1,256	31	773	28	698	30	937	34
More than one type	4,727	23	1,453	38	1,345	29	801	20	365	13	263	11	500	18
<b>Men</b>														
Total	10,038	100	1,955	100	2,339	100	2,025	100	1,378	100	1,148	100	1,193	100
None	4,547	45	432	22	866	37	983	49	858	62	704	61	705	59
One type	3,170	32	794	41	726	31	617	30	361	26	338	29	334	28
More than one type	2,321	23	729	37	747	32	425	21	159	12	107	9	155	13
<b>Women</b>														
Total	10,487	100	1,884	100	2,368	100	2,055	100	1,390	100	1,194	100	1,597	100
None	4,499	43	466	25	897	38	1,040	51	772	56	676	57	648	41
One type	3,583	34	693	37	874	37	640	31	412	30	361	30	603	38
More than one type	2,406	23	725	38	597	25	376	18	207	15	157	13	345	22

General Social Survey, 1990

Canadians aged 15-24 (77%) were more likely than others to have received support. They were followed by people aged 25-34 (63%) and people aged 65 and over (52%).

Most people received help with transportation (39%), followed by house maintenance and outside work (23%), housework (13%) and financial support (11%) (Table 5.11). Analysis by gender revealed that a larger percentage of women (14%) received help with housework than men (12%). The same was true for transportation (43% vs. 36%, respectively) and financial support (11% vs. 10%, respectively). On the other hand, a larger proportion of men (26%) received help with house maintenance than did women (20%).

Generally, for all types of support, the proportion of Canadians who received some type of help declined with age. For example, 65% of people aged 15-24 received help with transportation, compared with 24% of people aged 55-64 and 38% of people aged 65 and over.

Although the majority of people stated that they had received some type of help, most support received was less than once a month. For example, 2% received help with housework at least once a week, 4% at least once a month and 7% less often than once a month.

Friends were the main sources of support: 38% stated that they received some type of support from a friend (Table 5.12). Other sources of support included parents (10%), siblings (7%), sons (4%), daughters (4%) and other relatives (12%). Across types of support, 6% received help from a friend with housework, 14% with house maintenance and outside work, 29% with transportation and 3% with financial support.

#### *Paid support*

In 1990, almost one-quarter of Canadians (22%) received some type of paid support (Table 5.13). Specifically, 12% of people paid for help with house maintenance and outside work, 9% for house cleaning/laundry, and 6% for transportation. Women (23%) were more likely to report paid help than men (20%). As well, women consistently received more paid help than men regardless of type of support.

The proportion of people who paid for support varied by age group. A larger proportion of people aged 65 and over (35%) paid for help, compared with those aged 55-64 (23%), aged 45-54 (23%), aged 35-44 (22%), aged 25-34 (16%) and aged 15-24 (17%). Older Canadians were also more likely to receive paid support on a more frequent basis than others. For example, 9% of people aged 65 and over paid someone

to do household maintenance and outside work at least on a once a month basis (including "at least once a week"), compared with approximately 4% of people aged 45-64.

## 5.3 DISCUSSION

### *Household division of labour*

Division of labour in the household is very important to how families function and how the workplace operates. It is an area fraught with difficulty and challenge, not because the questions are particularly problematic, as is true for self-reports of satisfaction, but because answers are inconsistent. When asked about who takes major responsibility for various tasks in households, considerable disagreement is apparent. When the tasks are typically female ones, such as meal preparation and clean-up or house cleaning/laundry, men report being more often primarily responsible than women report them being. And when the tasks are primarily male ones, such as house maintenance and outside work, women more often report themselves as being primarily responsible than men report women as being. It is an interesting finding in its own right and subject to interpretation.

A number of conclusions are possible here. The first and most obvious is that the gender division of household labour is alive and well, although perhaps changing. For tasks defined as traditionally women's, women more often report being primarily responsible. For tasks defined as traditionally in the purview of men, men more often report primary responsibility. Essentially, findings from the 1990 GSS reveal that women still do women's work, and men do men's work. Reports of the demise of a gender division of labour on the homefront are certainly premature. On the other hand, there seems to be an emerging dispute about who takes primary responsibility in shared tasks. In these situations, there seems to be a strong interest in each gender in assuming, or being seen to assume, primary responsibility in the other's domain. This could be interpreted as misreporting on each gender's part, or more optimistically, could be taken as a sign of recognition of the importance of the other gender's traditional domain and the interest and willingness to declare that domain as one's own.

Patterns apparent by marital status and age are suggestive of the emergence of new patterns in the division of labour on the domestic front. Men in common-law unions are more likely than married men to take responsibility for meal preparation, but men in both types of unions are equally likely to participate in meal clean-up and house cleaning/laundry work. Married men were more likely to take primary

responsibility for house maintenance and outside work. In general, the finding that common-law couples more often share responsibility for household tasks, and the growth in common-law unions mentioned earlier, suggest that changes might be afoot in division of household tasks. On the other hand, it might be that preference for sharing household tasks leads couples more to common-law unions than to marriages. Additionally, it could be that people who live common law tend more often than married people to favour a more gender-equitable division of labour. The finding that smaller discrepancies exist between men and women in reporting who does what among common-law couples adds force to this interpretation, although more research in this area seems clearly warranted.

The gender division of labour is generally sharper among older couples than among younger. One factor that emerges here is that for both younger and older people, someone other than the couple more often looked after house maintenance and outside work. This may be the result of these people living more commonly in non-owned accommodation. This factor alone could lead to a somewhat more equitable division of labour of other household tasks. Some research suggests that in the older years, there might be a return to more equitable division of labour by gender as both members of the couple have more time and inclination to explore new areas (McDaniel, 1988).

The finding that women with lower education take greater responsibility for household work than women with more education is likely a function of home-based work reflecting the workplace. Women with less education would be more likely to be doing household-like work in the workplace as well, such as cleaning offices, preparing and serving food, caring for children or the elderly, etc. The difference in taking responsibility for laundry among women and across educational categories ranges from 70% for those with a university degree to 84% for those with less than secondary education. This means that women, regardless of education, remain charged with domestic responsibilities to a very large degree. This is consistent with findings from other research (Armstrong & Armstrong, 1984; Glazer, 1987; Horna & Lupri, 1987; Meissner, 1975; Wilson, 1991). A 1981 Statistics Canada study (the Canadian Time Use Pilot Survey) found that women in the paid labour force spent twice as much time on child care as men, nearly five times as much time on housework, and were more likely than men to do the family shopping (Statistics Canada, 1985:19).

There is a hint of change in the 1990 GSS findings, however. Men and women with higher education report sharing household work more often than those with less education, with the exception of house maintenance and outside work. The proportions who report sharing are small, however, and more men report they share equally than women report sharing equally. This could be interpreted that men are more eager to share, or possibly that they underestimate the total work, therefore estimating their contributions as equal when they might not be. The answer to these puzzles awaits further research.

### *Social support*

The extent to which Canadians give and receive unpaid help from others is significant. Three-quarters provided help to someone in 1990 and most provided more than one kind of help. This shows caring, concern and connectedness among Canadians (Angus, 1991).

Unpaid help is more than help with tasks. It is social support that figures importantly in overall health and well-being (Baines, Evans & Neysmith, 1991; Chappell, 1989; Chappell, 1992; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993; Statistics Canada, 1992; Stone, 1988). Social support is also important in planning formal programs of assistance, in balancing work and family, in better understanding how society actually works, and in policy planning for those in need. Yet, little is known about informal social support, who provides it, who receives it and how it works. Thus information from the 1990 General Social Survey is of help in answering these questions.

Patterns of providing support to others are shown to differ by gender. Men provide slightly more assistance than women, and more different kinds of assistance, while women and men are equal receivers of support. Men more often provide help with transportation, outside maintenance and finances, while women more often help with housework and child care. These findings are consistent with those of other studies (Chappell, 1989; Kaden & McDaniel, 1990; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993; Penning, 1990).

The main recipients of unpaid help were friends, with family members cited less frequently. This may mean that no sharp division is perceived among friends and family in providing help when needed. DeVries (1991:106) suggests that the definitions of friendship and kinship for men and for women might be different, based on analysis of the 1985 GSS, and that definitions

might vary depending on where one is in the life course. This fluidity of friend/kin definitions is worthy of further research, and could have important policy implications. If health care, for example, depends on the availability of a relative at home to provide care, fewer options might be available than if a wider network of friends, or self-defined relatives (which may or may not accord with standard definitions), is used. Penning (1990) suggests that a combination of task demands and preference for particular people to help, works in selection of unpaid helpers.

That half of all Canadians in 1990 admitted to having had help in the past year may mean that we are more socially interconnected than some would believe who adhere to notions of modern individualism and competition with others. It is, in fact, younger not older Canadians who receive the most help, with those aged 65 and over admitting to receiving considerably less help than those aged 15-24. Those in the middle age groups were less often the recipients of help. It is friends who are the main sources of support, as reported by the receivers as well.

The paid help that is received by almost one-quarter of Canadians seems to be purchased by those who need it, women and older Canadians, rather than by those who are likely to be the most well-off. This might mean that, in future, more Canadians will seek paid help as they need it, if at all possible, rather than rely on unpaid help by relatives or friends. Hints of support for this come from the 1989 and 1990 Alberta Surveys, where it was found that people of all ages would prefer professional help when older and infirm than family care (Krahn, Odynak & Gubbins, 1991).

A larger proportion of Canadians, in all age groups, reported providing help than receiving it. It could be that it is easier to remember one's own deeds than the deeds of someone else. Alternatively, it could be that providing help is more positive than receiving it. The lowest proportion of providers of help were older Canadians, but they also provide help to a large degree. The lowest proportion of receivers of help were mid-life Canadians who provide help to both old and young to a large degree.

Gender aspects of providing help are apparent. Women find themselves more often providing the kinds of help that are not only traditionally female activities, but the kinds that require the most time, effort and worry. The costs to women as care providers to old and young are often overlooked but potentially enormous (Baines, Evans & Neysmith, 1991; Kaden & McDaniel, 1990;

McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993). Men, in contrast, more often provide the kind of help that can be more easily postponed, such as house maintenance, and is less constant in its demands and less stressful, such as writing cheques.

A theme which emerges from this analysis is suggestive of future exploration. Help is provided to young people to a large degree, but they also provide help to others. It is not clear whether this is need on the part of the young people or willingness of parents and others to just "help out". With older people who receive help and buy help, the issue may be necessity rather than simply "helping out". The data do not allow a full analysis of these patterns in terms of demand patterns.

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**TABLE 5.1**

Person responsible for meal preparation by gender, selected marital status and age group, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender, selected marital status and age group	Person responsible for meal preparation											
	Total		Self		Spouse/ partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,430	100	758	12	4,744	74	741	12	141	2	26	0
15-24	219	100	30	14	114	52	58	27	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,535	100	207	14	1,003	65	281	18	—	—	—	—
35-44	1,656	100	216	13	1,159	70	200	12	65	4	—	—
45-54	1,137	100	97	9	926	81	94	8	—	—	—	—
55-64	937	100	95	10	784	84	53	6	—	—	—	—
65 +	947	100	113	12	757	80	55	6	—	—	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,628	100	621	11	4,311	77	551	10	110	2	—	—
15-24	86	100	—	—	60	70	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,184	100	134	11	812	69	204	17	—	—	—	—
35-44	1,479	100	194	13	1,065	72	150	10	60	4	—	—
45-54	1,047	100	92	9	860	82	83	8	—	—	—	—
55-64	900	100	88	10	765	85	43	5	—	—	—	—
65 +	932	100	109	12	749	80	54	6	—	—	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	802	100	137	17	433	54	190	24	—	—	—	—
15-24	132	100	25	19	54	41	40	30	—	—	—	—
25-34	351	100	73	21	191	55	77	22	—	—	—	—
35-44	177	100	—	—	94	53	50	28	—	—	—	—
45-54	90	100	—	—	66	74	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	37	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,437	100	5,202	81	538	8	500	8	147	2	—	—
15-24	398	100	258	65	51	13	70	17	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,778	100	1,354	76	173	10	203	11	38	2	—	—
35-44	1,622	100	1,329	82	148	9	101	6	34	2	—	—
45-54	1,056	100	917	87	59	6	56	5	—	—	—	—
55-64	879	100	766	87	56	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	704	100	578	82	51	7	41	6	—	—	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,649	100	4,706	83	413	7	359	6	127	2	—	—
15-24	204	100	147	72	—	—	33	16	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,425	100	1,134	80	113	8	136	10	33	2	—	—
35-44	1,471	100	1,224	83	132	9	77	5	—	—	—	—
45-54	998	100	881	88	49	5	45	4	—	—	—	—
55-64	857	100	749	87	52	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	693	100	571	82	50	7	39	6	—	—	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	788	100	496	63	125	16	141	18	—	—	—	—
15-24	193	100	111	57	36	19	37	19	—	—	—	—
25-34	353	100	220	62	59	17	67	19	—	—	—	—
35-44	151	100	106	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	58	100	36	62	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.2**

Person responsible for meal clean-up by gender, selected marital status and age group, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender, selected marital status and age group	Person responsible for meal clean-up											
	Total		Self		Spouse/ partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,430	100	996	15	3,868	60	1,115	17	400	6	32	1
15-24	219	100	35	16	96	44	67	31	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,535	100	248	16	838	55	386	25	48	3	—	—
35-44	1,656	100	260	16	939	57	255	15	187	11	—	—
45-54	1,137	100	153	13	749	66	143	13	90	8	—	—
55-64	937	100	120	13	643	69	127	14	—	—	—	—
65 +	947	100	180	19	602	64	136	14	—	—	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,628	100	868	15	3,498	62	880	16	343	6	25	0
15-24	86	100	—	—	37	43	30	35	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,184	100	183	15	677	57	275	23	38	3	—	—
35-44	1,479	100	227	15	871	59	206	14	167	11	—	—
45-54	1,047	100	147	14	691	66	126	12	81	8	—	—
55-64	900	100	116	13	630	70	111	12	—	—	—	—
65 +	932	100	179	19	592	64	132	14	—	—	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	802	100	128	16	370	46	235	29	57	7	—	—
15-24	132	100	—	—	59	45	38	28	—	—	—	—
25-34	351	100	65	19	162	46	111	32	—	—	—	—
35-44	177	100	—	—	68	38	49	28	—	—	—	—
45-54	90	100	—	—	58	65	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	37	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,437	100	4,532	70	695	11	750	12	412	6	—	—
15-24	398	100	216	54	60	15	97	24	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,778	100	1,226	69	207	12	258	14	77	4	—	—
35-44	1,622	100	1,125	69	180	11	137	8	173	11	—	—
45-54	1,056	100	806	76	76	7	81	8	91	9	—	—
55-64	879	100	657	75	90	10	101	11	—	—	—	—
65 +	704	100	503	71	82	12	76	11	23	3	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,649	100	4,085	72	576	10	577	10	372	7	—	—
15-24	204	100	127	62	—	—	48	24	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,425	100	1,025	72	154	11	180	13	58	4	—	—
35-44	1,471	100	1,024	70	170	12	111	8	160	11	—	—
45-54	998	100	774	78	70	7	63	6	91	9	—	—
55-64	857	100	637	74	89	10	101	12	—	—	—	—
65 +	693	100	497	72	80	12	74	11	23	3	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	788	100	448	57	119	15	173	22	40	5	—	—
15-24	193	100	89	46	46	24	49	25	—	—	—	—
25-34	353	100	201	57	54	15	78	22	—	—	—	—
35-44	151	100	101	67	—	—	26	17	—	—	—	—
45-54	58	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.3**

Person responsible for house cleaning and laundry by gender, selected marital status and age group, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender, selected marital status and age group	Person responsible for house cleaning and laundry											
	Total		Self		Spouse/ partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,430	100	556	9	4,702	73	828	13	293	5	32	0
15-24	219	100	—	—	114	52	68	31	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,535	100	173	11	1,010	66	308	20	32	2	—	—
35-44	1,656	100	106	6	1,237	75	196	12	106	6	—	—
45-54	1,137	100	81	7	878	77	107	9	67	6	—	—
55-64	937	100	89	10	750	80	65	7	26	3	—	—
65 +	947	100	88	9	713	75	85	9	45	5	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,628	100	479	9	4,233	75	638	11	240	4	23	0
15-24	86	100	—	—	56	65	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,184	100	125	11	799	68	225	19	29	2	—	—
35-44	1,479	100	96	6	1,135	77	156	11	86	6	—	—
45-54	1,047	100	79	8	811	77	99	9	53	5	—	—
55-64	900	100	88	10	730	81	54	6	23	3	—	—
65 +	932	100	85	9	702	75	83	9	45	5	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	802	100	78	10	469	58	189	24	53	7	—	—
15-24	132	100	—	—	58	44	46	35	—	—	—	—
25-34	351	100	49	14	211	60	83	24	—	—	—	—
35-44	177	100	—	—	101	57	40	23	—	—	—	—
45-54	90	100	—	—	67	75	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	37	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,437	100	5,072	79	358	6	619	10	316	5	42	1
15-24	398	100	260	65	30	8	82	21	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,778	100	1,347	76	106	6	251	14	61	3	—	—
35-44	1,622	100	1,355	84	85	5	110	7	60	4	—	—
45-54	1,056	100	862	82	56	5	53	5	79	7	—	—
55-64	879	100	732	83	33	4	62	7	44	5	—	—
65 +	704	100	517	73	48	7	61	9	53	8	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,649	100	4,538	80	306	5	456	8	287	5	37	1
15-24	204	100	145	71	—	—	37	18	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,425	100	1,105	78	94	7	169	12	48	3	—	—
35-44	1,471	100	1,242	84	74	5	90	6	54	4	—	—
45-54	998	100	821	82	52	5	40	4	79	8	—	—
55-64	857	100	714	83	31	4	62	7	42	5	—	—
65 +	693	100	511	74	48	7	58	8	53	8	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	788	100	535	68	52	7	163	21	29	4	—	—
15-24	193	100	115	60	24	12	45	23	—	—	—	—
25-34	353	100	242	69	—	—	81	23	—	—	—	—
35-44	151	100	113	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	58	100	41	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.4**

**Person responsible for household maintenance and outside work by gender, selected marital status and age group, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender, marital status and age group	Person responsible for household maintenance and outside work											
	Total		Self		Spouse/ partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,430	100	4,815	75	344	5	220	3	990	15	41	1
15-24	219	100	116	53	—	—	—	—	69	32	—	—
25-34	1,535	100	1,201	78	77	5	57	4	192	12	—	—
35-44	1,656	100	1,320	80	100	6	65	4	149	9	—	—
45-54	1,137	100	887	78	69	6	—	—	152	13	—	—
55-64	937	100	726	77	52	6	26	3	129	14	—	—
65 +	947	100	566	60	33	4	27	3	300	32	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,628	100	4,264	76	309	5	172	3	834	15	35	1
15-24	86	100	60	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	1,184	100	945	80	62	5	43	4	130	11	—	—
35-44	1,479	100	1,183	80	92	6	52	3	135	9	—	—
45-54	1,047	100	816	78	69	7	—	—	133	13	—	—
55-64	900	100	700	78	48	5	25	3	124	14	—	—
65 +	932	100	560	60	32	3	25	3	295	32	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	802	100	551	69	36	4	48	6	157	20	—	—
15-24	132	100	56	42	—	—	—	—	52	39	—	—
25-34	351	100	256	73	—	—	—	—	62	18	—	—
35-44	177	100	137	77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	90	100	71	79	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	37	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
All age groups	6,437	100	583	9	4,318	67	359	6	1,109	17	38	1
15-24	398	100	—	—	229	58	35	9	106	27	—	—
25-34	1,778	100	175	10	1,238	70	110	6	243	14	—	—
35-44	1,622	100	139	9	1,196	74	84	5	190	12	—	—
45-54	1,056	100	108	10	693	66	68	6	181	17	—	—
55-64	879	100	72	8	615	70	29	3	157	18	—	—
65 +	704	100	68	10	345	49	33	5	232	33	—	—
<b>Married</b>												
All age groups	5,649	100	500	9	3,874	69	299	5	919	16	32	1
15-24	204	100	—	—	126	61	—	—	55	27	—	—
25-34	1,425	100	132	9	1,032	72	88	6	166	12	—	—
35-44	1,471	100	120	8	1,115	76	70	5	154	10	—	—
45-54	998	100	101	10	661	66	67	7	165	17	—	—
55-64	857	100	70	8	600	70	29	3	153	18	—	—
65 +	693	100	68	10	341	49	33	5	226	33	—	—
<b>Common law</b>												
All age groups	788	100	83	11	444	56	60	8	190	24	—	—
15-24	193	100	—	—	104	54	—	—	51	26	—	—
25-34	353	100	43	12	206	58	—	—	77	22	—	—
35-44	151	100	—	—	82	54	—	—	36	24	—	—
45-54	58	100	—	—	32	56	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.5**  
**Person responsible for meal preparation by gender and level of education, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and level of education	Person responsible for meal preparation											
	Total		Self		Spouse/partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
All levels of education	6,430	100	758	12	4,744	74	741	12	141	2	26	0
University degree <sup>1</sup>	1,075	100	117	11	741	69	174	16	--	--	--	--
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,287	100	154	12	939	73	174	14	--	--	--	--
Some postsecondary	1,138	100	152	13	840	74	121	11	--	--	--	--
High school diploma	823	100	102	12	590	72	96	12	--	--	--	--
Some high school	1,359	100	149	11	1,041	77	128	9	--	--	--	--
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	649	100	76	12	518	80	45	7	--	--	--	--
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	100	100	--	--	76	76	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>												
All levels of education	6,437	100	5,202	81	538	8	500	8	147	2	--	--
University degree <sup>1</sup>	844	100	627	74	86	10	88	10	--	--	--	--
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,259	100	1,006	80	107	9	113	9	--	--	--	--
Some postsecondary	1,230	100	974	79	121	10	103	8	--	--	--	--
High school diploma	1,165	100	948	81	99	8	103	9	--	--	--	--
Some high school	1,357	100	1,165	86	80	6	71	5	32	2	--	--
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	510	100	421	83	34	7	--	--	--	--	--	--
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	73	100	61	83	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes masters, earned doctorate, bachelors, undergraduate degree or teacher's college.

<sup>2</sup> Includes diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP, nursing school, trade, technical or vocational school.

<sup>3</sup> Includes no schooling.

<sup>4</sup> Includes other not elsewhere specified.

**TABLE 5.6**  
**Person responsible for meal clean-up by gender and level of education, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and level of education	Person responsible for meal clean-up											
	Total		Self		Spouse/partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
All levels of education	6,430	100	996	15	3,868	60	1,115	17	400	6	32	1
University degree <sup>1</sup>	1,075	100	209	19	541	50	243	23	68	6	--	--
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,287	100	162	13	757	59	242	19	111	9	--	--
Some postsecondary	1,138	100	204	18	678	60	174	15	80	7	--	--
High school diploma	823	100	158	19	447	54	172	21	41	5	--	--
Some high school	1,359	100	165	12	927	68	189	14	70	5	--	--
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	649	100	87	13	451	70	78	12	--	--	--	--
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	100	100	--	--	66	66	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>												
All levels of education	6,437	100	4,532	70	695	11	750	12	412	6	--	--
University degree <sup>1</sup>	844	100	532	63	127	15	112	13	63	7	--	--
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,259	100	812	65	152	12	181	14	109	9	--	--
Some postsecondary	1,230	100	841	68	147	12	165	13	69	6	--	--
High school diploma	1,165	100	847	73	123	11	132	11	57	5	--	--
Some high school	1,357	100	1,057	78	112	8	116	9	63	5	--	--
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	510	100	386	76	31	6	40	8	44	9	--	--
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	73	100	56	77	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes masters, earned doctorate, bachelors, undergraduate degree or teacher's college.

<sup>2</sup> Includes diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP, nursing school, trade, technical or vocational school.

<sup>3</sup> Includes no schooling.

<sup>4</sup> Includes other not elsewhere specified.

**TABLE 5.7**  
**Person responsible for house cleaning and laundry by gender and level of education, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and level of education	Person responsible for house cleaning and laundry											
	Total		Self		Spouse/partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
All levels of education	6,430	100	556	9	4,702	73	828	13	293	5	32	0
University degree <sup>1</sup>	1,075	100	110	10	701	65	182	17	71	7	—	—
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,287	100	112	9	943	73	163	13	56	4	—	—
Some postsecondary	1,138	100	113	10	818	72	171	15	32	3	—	—
High school diploma	823	100	78	9	597	73	114	14	32	4	—	—
Some high school	1,359	100	118	9	1,018	75	144	11	69	5	—	—
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	649	100	24	4	537	83	50	8	25	4	—	—
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	100	100	—	—	88	88	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
All levels of education	6,437	100	5,072	79	358	6	619	10	316	5	42	1
University degree <sup>1</sup>	844	100	591	70	65	8	109	13	66	8	—	—
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,259	100	969	77	89	7	127	10	62	5	—	—
Some postsecondary	1,230	100	976	79	64	5	125	10	49	4	—	—
High school diploma	1,165	100	936	80	58	5	128	11	34	3	—	—
Some high school	1,357	100	1,110	82	57	4	107	8	70	5	—	—
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	510	100	428	84	—	—	22	4	33	7	—	—
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	73	100	61	84	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes masters, earned doctorate, bachelors, undergraduate degree or teacher's college.

<sup>2</sup> Includes diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP, nursing school, trade, technical or vocational school.

<sup>3</sup> Includes no schooling.

<sup>4</sup> Includes other not elsewhere specified.

**TABLE 5.8**

**Person responsible for household maintenance and outside work by gender and level of education, married and common-law population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and level of education	Person responsible for household maintenance and outside work											
	Total		Self		Spouse/partner		Shared equally		Other		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Men</b>												
All levels of education	6,430	100	4,815	75	344	5	220	3	990	15	41	1
University degree <sup>1</sup>	1,075	100	791	74	52	5	41	4	175	16	—	—
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,287	100	973	76	61	5	53	4	187	15	—	—
Some postsecondary	1,138	100	861	76	74	6	36	3	159	14	—	—
High school diploma	823	100	654	79	42	5	29	3	96	12	—	—
Some high school	1,359	100	1,029	76	79	6	44	3	198	15	—	—
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	649	100	429	66	30	5	—	—	165	25	—	—
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	100	100	78	78	--	--	--	--	--	--	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
All levels of education	6,437	100	583	9	4,318	67	359	6	1,109	17	38	1
University degree <sup>1</sup>	844	100	70	8	548	65	59	7	153	18	—	—
Postsecondary diploma <sup>2</sup>	1,259	100	118	9	888	71	60	5	182	14	—	—
Some postsecondary	1,230	100	116	9	815	66	75	6	217	18	—	—
High school diploma	1,165	100	110	9	820	70	56	5	173	15	—	—
Some high school	1,357	100	110	8	908	67	97	7	220	16	—	—
Less than high school <sup>3</sup>	510	100	57	11	300	59	—	—	136	27	—	—
Not stated <sup>4</sup>	73	100	—	—	38	52	—	—	29	40	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Includes masters, earned doctorate, bachelors, undergraduate degree or teacher's college.

<sup>2</sup> Includes diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP, nursing school, trade, technical or vocational school.

<sup>3</sup> Includes no schooling.

<sup>4</sup> Includes other not elsewhere specified.

**TABLE 5.9**

Type of unpaid support provided to people outside the household by age group, gender and frequency of support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender, type and frequency of support	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total population	20,526	100	3,838	100	4,706	100	4,080	100	2,768	100	2,342	100	2,790	100
At least one type of unpaid support	15,270	74	3,069	80	3,853	82	3,197	78	2,014	73	1,635	70	1,501	54
Housework	3,658	18	1,040	27	1,027	22	624	15	429	15	306	13	233	8
at least once a week	703	3	213	6	163	3	88	2	96	3	89	4	55	2
at least once a month	1,206	6	356	9	332	7	205	5	120	4	116	5	76	3
less than once a month	1,724	8	458	12	529	11	329	8	210	8	100	4	98	4
Household maintenance	6,504	32	1,566	41	1,923	41	1,422	35	731	26	538	23	324	12
at least once a week	737	4	214	6	219	5	109	3	75	3	84	4	37	1
at least once a month	1,865	9	480	12	525	11	366	9	233	8	148	6	113	4
less than once a month	3,900	19	873	23	1,178	25	948	23	423	15	305	13	174	6
Transportation	10,189	50	2,007	52	2,734	58	2,345	57	1,308	47	1,005	43	790	28
at least once a week	3,336	16	904	24	828	18	636	16	352	13	337	14	279	10
at least once a month	3,652	18	722	19	947	20	873	21	495	18	346	15	269	10
less than once a month	3,291	16	382	10	958	20	836	20	461	17	322	14	242	9
Child care	6,484	32	1,219	32	1,809	38	1,379	34	732	26	829	35	516	19
at least once a week	1,040	5	170	4	219	5	140	3	153	6	225	10	134	5
at least once a month	2,359	11	465	12	634	13	443	11	262	9	358	15	198	7
less than once a month	3,079	15	584	15	955	20	792	19	317	11	247	11	184	7
Financial support	5,138	25	852	22	1,041	22	1,059	26	868	31	659	28	660	24
at least once a week	470	2	64	2	87	2	103	3	70	3	59	3	86	3
at least once a month	1,516	7	269	7	267	6	340	8	306	11	166	7	167	6
less than once a month	3,116	15	517	13	681	14	608	15	487	18	429	18	395	14
<b>Men</b>														
Total population	10,038	100	1,955	100	2,339	100	2,025	100	1,378	100	1,148	100	1,193	100
At least one type of unpaid support	7,691	77	1,603	82	1,948	83	1,643	81	977	71	814	71	706	59
Housework	1,303	13	451	23	433	19	204	10	113	8	58	5	44	4
at least once a week	221	2	83	4	62	3	26	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
at least once a month	392	4	154	8	130	6	55	3	--	--	--	--	--	--
less than once a month	685	7	214	11	239	10	121	6	67	5	--	--	--	--
Household maintenance	4,800	48	1,121	57	1,403	60	1,052	52	555	40	424	37	244	20
at least once a week	561	6	168	9	156	7	86	4	55	4	72	6	25	2
at least once a month	1,430	14	358	18	391	17	291	14	182	13	126	11	82	7
less than once a month	2,806	28	596	30	856	37	675	33	317	23	225	20	138	12
Transportation	5,216	52	1,112	57	1,377	59	1,173	58	600	44	517	45	436	37
at least once a week	1,628	16	526	27	414	18	283	14	153	11	124	11	128	11
at least once a month	1,943	19	399	20	482	21	458	23	221	16	211	18	172	14
less than once a month	1,645	16	187	10	480	21	432	21	226	16	182	16	136	11
Child care	2,398	24	438	22	645	28	588	29	234	17	323	28	170	14
at least once a week	317	3	45	2	63	3	59	3	32	2	76	7	42	4
at least once a month	882	9	187	10	221	9	177	9	80	6	150	13	68	6
less than once a month	1,197	12	206	11	360	15	352	17	122	9	97	8	60	5
Financial support	2,716	27	464	24	576	25	594	29	426	31	347	30	308	26
at least once a week	252	3	38	2	57	2	54	3	32	2	33	3	37	3
at least once a month	821	8	137	7	165	7	209	10	162	12	71	6	79	7
less than once a month	1,624	16	288	15	354	15	330	16	228	17	239	21	184	15

Continued on next page

**TABLE 5.9**

Type of unpaid support provided to people outside the household by age group, gender and frequency of support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990 - Concluded

Gender, type and frequency of support	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Women</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	10,487	100	1,884	100	2,368	100	2,055	100	1,390	100	1,194	100	1,597	100
<b>At least one type of unpaid support</b>	7,579	72	1,466	78	1,905	80	1,554	76	1,037	75	821	69	795	50
<b>Housework</b>	2,355	22	588	31	595	25	420	20	316	23	248	21	189	12
at least once a week	482	5	130	7	100	4	62	3	74	5	75	6	41	3
at least once a month	814	8	202	11	202	9	150	7	97	7	99	8	65	4
less than once a month	1,039	10	245	13	290	12	208	10	143	10	73	6	80	5
<b>Household maintenance</b>	1,704	16	445	24	519	22	370	18	176	13	113	10	80	5
at least once a week	176	2	46	2	63	3	23	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
at least once a month	435	4	122	6	134	6	75	4	51	4	—	—	32	2
less than once a month	1,093	10	277	15	322	14	273	13	105	8	80	7	36	2
<b>Transportation</b>	4,973	47	895	48	1,357	57	1,172	57	708	51	487	41	354	22
at least once a week	1,707	16	378	20	414	17	353	17	199	14	213	18	151	9
at least once a month	1,709	16	323	17	466	20	415	20	274	20	135	11	97	6
less than once a month	1,557	15	194	10	478	20	404	20	235	17	140	12	106	7
<b>Child care</b>	4,086	39	781	41	1,164	49	791	38	497	36	506	42	347	22
at least once a week	722	7	125	7	156	7	81	4	120	9	149	12	92	6
at least once a month	1,477	14	278	15	413	17	265	13	182	13	208	17	131	8
less than once a month	1,882	18	378	20	595	25	440	21	195	14	150	13	124	8
<b>Financial support</b>	2,422	23	387	21	464	20	464	23	442	32	312	26	352	22
at least once a week	218	2	—	—	30	1	49	2	39	3	26	2	48	3
at least once a month	694	7	133	7	103	4	132	6	144	10	95	8	88	6
less than once a month	1,493	14	229	12	326	14	278	14	258	19	190	16	210	13

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.10**  
**Type of unpaid support provided to people outside the household by gender and person receiving support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Type of support and person receiving support	Gender					
	Total		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
<b>Total population</b>	20,526	100	10,038	100	10,487	100
<b>All types of support</b>	15,270	74	7,691	77	7,579	72
Son	1,611	8	726	7	885	8
Daughter	1,913	9	817	8	1,095	10
Parent	2,987	15	1,293	13	1,694	16
Brother/sister	2,792	14	1,240	12	1,553	15
Other relative	4,512	22	2,347	23	2,166	21
Friend	10,562	51	5,680	57	4,882	47
Other	2,045	10	1,014	10	1,030	10
<b>Total housework</b>	3,658	18	1,303	13	2,355	22
Son	118	1	—	—	95	1
Daughter	216	1	25	0	190	2
Parent	866	4	203	2	663	6
Brother/sister	337	2	108	1	228	2
Other relative	673	3	225	2	448	4
Friend	1,662	8	724	7	938	9
Other	368	2	140	1	228	2
<b>Total household maintenance</b>	6,504	32	4,800	48	1,704	16
Son	236	1	182	2	54	1
Daughter	167	1	97	1	70	1
Parent	1,175	6	701	7	473	5
Brother/sister	541	3	419	4	122	1
Other relative	1,287	6	1,017	10	270	3
Friend	3,906	19	3,080	31	826	8
Other	203	1	148	1	54	1
<b>Total transportation</b>	10,189	50	5,216	52	4,973	47
Son	225	1	104	1	121	1
Daughter	351	2	170	2	181	2
Parent	1,430	7	555	6	875	8
Brother/sister	877	4	401	4	476	5
Other relative	1,989	10	1,071	11	918	9
Friend	7,283	35	3,865	39	3,418	33
Other	494	2	260	3	234	2
<b>Total child care</b>	6,484	32	2,398	24	4,086	39
Son	754	4	272	3	482	5
Daughter	1,055	5	354	4	701	7
Parent	65	0	—	—	40	0
Brother/sister	1,269	6	440	4	829	8
Other relative	1,466	7	607	6	859	8
Friend	2,688	13	929	9	1,759	17
Other	59	0	—	—	34	0
<b>Total financial</b>	5,138	25	2,716	27	2,422	23
Son	763	4	401	4	362	3
Daughter	826	4	434	4	391	4
Parent	371	2	176	2	195	2
Brother/sister	596	3	250	2	346	3
Other relative	675	3	331	3	345	3
Friend	1,708	8	1,026	10	682	7
Other	1,196	6	603	6	594	6

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 5.11

Type of unpaid support received from outside the household by age group, gender, frequency of support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Gender, type and frequency of support	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	20,526	100	3,838	100	4,706	100	4,080	100	2,768	100	2,342	100	2,790	100
<b>At least one type support</b>	11,480	56	2,941	77	2,944	63	2,057	50	1,138	41	962	41	1,437	52
<b>Housework</b>	2,760	13	685	18	773	16	472	12	264	10	189	8	378	14
at least once a week	485	2	116	3	102	2	51	1	48	2	47	2	120	4
at least once a month	778	4	197	5	222	5	99	2	69	2	79	3	112	4
less than once a month	1,453	7	350	9	444	9	318	8	140	5	63	3	139	5
<b>Household maintenance</b>	4,707	23	918	24	1,345	29	895	22	513	19	474	20	562	20
at least once a week	333	2	50	1	75	2	35	1	43	2	35	1	95	3
at least once a month	1,194	6	271	7	317	7	159	4	141	5	132	6	175	6
less than once a month	3,177	15	595	15	953	20	701	17	330	12	308	13	291	10
<b>Transportation</b>	8,099	39	2,509	65	1,915	41	1,317	32	738	27	562	24	1,059	38
at least once a week	2,442	12	1,103	29	429	9	219	5	170	6	143	6	377	14
at least once a month	2,563	12	851	22	620	13	389	10	232	8	157	7	314	11
less than once a month	3,089	15	555	14	866	18	708	17	331	12	261	11	367	13
<b>Financial support</b>	2,223	11	870	23	757	16	371	9	99	4	74	3	51	2
at least once a week	118	1	78	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
at least once a month	532	3	294	8	140	3	46	1	--	--	23	1	--	--
less than once a month	1,563	8	499	13	591	13	311	8	86	3	44	2	31	1
<b>Men</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	10,038	100	1,955	100	2,339	100	2,025	100	1,378	100	1,148	100	1,193	100
<b>At least one type support</b>	5,491	55	1,523	78	1,473	63	1,042	51	520	38	444	39	489	41
<b>Housework</b>	1,244	12	346	18	376	16	217	11	97	7	69	6	139	12
at least once a week	242	2	73	4	52	2	28	1	--	--	26	2	47	4
at least once a month	333	3	89	5	114	5	46	2	25	2	--	--	39	3
less than once a month	654	7	171	9	211	9	143	7	57	4	--	--	50	4
<b>Household maintenance</b>	2,653	26	483	25	835	36	566	28	291	21	252	22	226	19
at least once a week	159	2	27	1	38	2	24	1	--	--	--	--	41	3
at least once a month	679	7	150	8	204	9	97	5	91	7	65	6	72	6
less than once a month	1,815	18	306	16	593	25	445	22	181	13	178	15	113	9
<b>Transportation</b>	3,632	36	1,283	66	928	40	618	31	289	21	216	19	299	25
at least once a week	1,060	11	573	29	202	9	88	4	76	6	35	3	85	7
at least once a month	1,085	11	426	22	300	13	179	9	52	4	45	4	83	7
less than once a month	1,483	15	285	15	425	18	351	17	157	11	134	12	131	11
<b>Financial support</b>	1,052	10	420	22	366	16	164	8	47	3	38	3	--	--
at least once a week	62	1	36	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
at least once a month	211	2	133	7	48	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
less than once a month	776	8	251	13	302	13	143	7	42	3	27	2	--	--

Continued on next page

**TABLE 5.11**

Type of unpaid support received from outside the household by age group, gender, frequency of support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990 - Concluded

Gender, type and frequency of support	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Women</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	10,487	100	1,884	100	2,368	100	2,055	100	1,390	100	1,194	100	1,597	100
<b>At least one type support</b>	5,989	57	1,418	75	1,471	62	1,015	49	618	44	518	43	948	59
<b>Housework</b>	1,517	14	339	18	397	17	255	12	166	12	120	10	240	15
at least once a week	243	2	43	2	50	2	23	1	33	2	—	—	73	5
at least once a month	445	4	108	6	109	5	52	3	44	3	58	5	73	5
less than once a month	799	8	179	9	233	10	174	8	82	6	41	3	89	6
<b>Household maintenance</b>	2,053	20	435	23	509	22	329	16	222	16	222	19	336	21
at least once a week	175	2	23	1	37	2	—	—	23	2	26	2	54	3
at least once a month	515	5	121	6	112	5	62	3	50	4	66	6	103	6
less than once a month	1,362	13	289	15	360	15	256	12	149	11	130	11	178	11
<b>Transportation</b>	4,467	43	1,226	65	988	42	698	34	449	32	346	29	760	48
at least once a week	1,382	13	530	28	227	10	131	6	94	7	108	9	292	18
at least once a month	1,478	14	425	23	320	14	210	10	180	13	111	9	231	14
less than once a month	1,606	15	271	14	441	19	358	17	175	13	127	11	236	15
<b>Financial support</b>	1,171	11	450	24	391	17	207	10	52	4	36	3	35	2
at least once a week	56	1	41	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
at least once a month	320	3	161	9	92	4	29	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
less than once a month	788	8	248	13	288	12	168	8	44	3	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.12**

Type of unpaid support received from outside the household by gender and person providing the support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990

Type of support received and person providing support	Gender					
	Total population		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
<b>Total population</b>	20,526	100	10,038	100	10,487	100
<b>All types of support</b>	11,480	56	5,491	55	5,989	57
Son	818	4	273	3	545	5
Daughter	821	4	208	2	613	6
Parent	2,091	10	841	8	1,250	12
Brother/sister	1,491	7	652	6	839	8
Other relative	2,406	12	1,113	11	1,293	12
Friend	7,802	38	4,096	41	3,706	35
Support group	30	0	—	—	28	0
Other	347	2	167	2	180	2
<b>Total housework</b>	2,760	13	1,244	12	1,517	14
Son	102	0	28	0	74	1
Daughter	355	2	119	1	235	2
Parent	537	3	173	2	365	3
Brother/sister	302	1	102	1	199	2
Other relative	548	3	258	3	290	3
Friend	1,253	6	690	7	562	5
Other	86	0	28	0	57	1
<b>Total household maintenance</b>	4,707	23	2,653	26	2,053	20
Son	483	2	170	2	313	3
Daughter	135	1	26	0	108	1
Parent	379	2	186	2	193	2
Brother/sister	517	3	296	3	222	2
Other relative	985	5	548	5	437	4
Friend	2,789	14	1,727	17	1,062	10
Other	46	0	—	—	30	0
<b>Total transportation</b>	8,099	39	3,632	36	4,467	43
Son	387	2	107	1	280	3
Daughter	528	3	104	1	424	4
Parent	688	3	229	2	459	4
Brother/sister	716	3	253	3	463	4
Other relative	985	5	382	4	603	6
Friend	5,903	29	2,951	29	2,952	28
Other	136	1	79	1	57	1
<b>Total financial</b>	2,223	11	1,052	10	1,171	11
Son	47	0	—	—	37	0
Daughter	56	0	—	—	43	0
Parent	1,028	5	440	4	588	6
Brother/sister	215	1	98	1	117	1
Other relative	356	2	161	2	194	2
Friend	651	3	399	4	252	2
Support group	30	0	—	—	28	0
Other	111	1	57	1	54	1

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 5.13**  
**Type of paid support received from outside the household by age group, gender and frequency**  
**of support, population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender, type and frequency of support	Age group													
	Total population		15-24		25-34		35-44		45-54		55-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	20,526	100	3,838	100	4,706	100	4,080	100	2,768	100	2,342	100	2,790	100
<b>At least one type of paid support</b>	4,454	22	666	17	752	16	886	22	647	23	535	23	967	35
<b>House cleaning/laundry<sup>1</sup></b>	1,790	9	174	5	246	5	390	10	314	11	219	9	447	16
At least once a week	799	4	123	3	118	3	177	4	131	5	90	4	161	6
At least once a month	632	3	39	1	77	2	141	3	106	4	62	3	207	7
Less than once a month	308	2	--	--	50	1	69	2	61	2	42	2	74	3
<b>Household maintenance<sup>1</sup></b>	2,494	12	252	7	356	8	518	13	418	15	369	16	581	21
At least once a week	307	1	31	1	33	1	65	2	67	2	--	--	87	3
At least once a month	527	3	55	1	51	1	99	2	66	2	88	4	168	6
Less than once a month	1,598	8	160	4	268	6	347	9	268	10	240	10	315	11
<b>Transportation<sup>1</sup></b>	1,214	6	307	8	261	6	164	4	98	4	113	5	270	10
At least once a week	390	2	112	3	68	1	53	1	31	1	35	2	92	3
At least once a month	315	2	82	2	70	1	32	1	--	--	33	1	82	3
Less than once a month	492	2	112	3	121	3	78	2	45	2	44	2	91	3
<b>Men</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	10,038	100	1,955	100	2,339	100	2,025	100	1,378	100	1,148	100	1,193	100
<b>At least one type of paid support</b>	2,046	20	343	18	353	15	418	21	294	21	254	22	384	32
<b>House cleaning/laundry<sup>1</sup></b>	808	8	80	4	102	4	203	10	143	10	114	10	166	14
At least once a week	367	4	54	3	45	2	93	5	72	5	45	4	58	5
At least once a month	279	3	--	--	30	1	68	3	37	3	35	3	87	7
Less than once a month	137	1	--	--	27	1	42	2	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Household maintenance<sup>1</sup></b>	1,160	12	131	7	167	7	241	12	201	15	172	15	247	21
At least once a week	129	1	--	--	--	--	34	2	--	--	--	--	33	3
At least once a month	259	3	--	--	26	1	46	2	--	--	42	4	82	7
Less than once a month	750	7	96	5	123	5	161	8	128	9	115	10	127	11
<b>Transportation<sup>1</sup></b>	500	5	155	8	119	5	71	4	33	2	44	4	77	6
At least once a week	135	1	52	3	27	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
At least once a month	133	1	33	2	37	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Less than once a month	226	2	70	4	55	2	39	2	--	--	--	--	33	3
<b>Women</b>														
<b>Total population</b>	10,487	100	1,884	100	2,368	100	2,055	100	1,390	100	1,194	100	1,597	100
<b>At least one type of paid support</b>	2,408	23	323	17	399	17	468	23	353	25	281	24	583	37
<b>House cleaning/laundry<sup>1</sup></b>	982	9	94	5	144	6	187	9	170	12	105	9	282	18
At least once a week	432	4	69	4	73	3	84	4	59	4	45	4	103	6
At least once a month	353	3	--	--	47	2	73	4	70	5	27	2	120	7
Less than once a month	171	2	--	--	23	1	27	1	34	2	--	--	57	4
<b>Household maintenance<sup>1</sup></b>	1,334	13	120	6	189	8	277	13	216	16	197	17	334	21
At least once a week	179	2	--	--	--	--	31	1	37	3	--	--	54	3
At least once a month	269	3	33	2	25	1	53	3	25	2	47	4	87	5
Less than once a month	848	8	63	3	146	6	187	9	140	10	125	10	187	12
<b>Transportation<sup>1</sup></b>	714	7	152	8	142	6	93	5	65	5	68	6	193	12
At least once a week	256	2	60	3	40	2	37	2	--	--	--	--	73	5
At least once a month	182	2	49	3	34	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	61	4
Less than once a month	266	3	41	2	67	3	40	2	31	2	29	2	58	4

<sup>1</sup> Includes those with frequency of support not stated.

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## CHAPTER 6

### CONTACTS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

#### 6.1 METHODS

Data on parents were drawn from Section A of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire. If the respondents' parent(s) were alive at the time of the survey, data were collected on parent(s)' ages (A4 and A24), where and with whom parents lived (A5, A6, A7, A25, A27, A28, A29 and A30), how far they lived from the respondent (A8 and A31), how often respondents saw their parent(s) (A9 and A32), where respondents usually saw their parent(s) (A10 and A33), and how often respondents had contact with their parent(s) by phone or letter (A13 and A36).

For respondents who lived with their parent(s) and those whose parents were deceased, contact questions were not asked. Analysis was done only for those respondents who did not live with their parent(s).

Respondents were also asked questions about their grandparents. Specifically, respondents were asked if any of their grandparents were alive at the time of survey (A53) and if so, where they lived (A54) and about the frequency and type of contact they had with any of their grandparents (A56, A57).

In Section B of the questionnaire, respondents were asked questions about their siblings including the number of siblings, whether they were alive at the time of the survey and where they lived (B2 to B6). As well, respondents were asked about the frequency and type of contact they had with siblings not living in their household. Specifically, questions pertained to how frequently the respondent saw any of their siblings (B10) and how frequently they had contact with any of their brothers or sisters by letter or phone (B11).

In Section E of the questionnaire, respondents were asked about their close friends. A friend was defined as any person other than a member of the respondent's immediate family. Spouses, parents, brothers, sisters and children were excluded. However, aunts, uncles,

cousins, nieces, nephews and in-laws, etc. were eligible to be selected. Respondents were asked how many people they considered to be close friends (E1), if their closest friend was male or female (E3), where the friendship started (E4), how far they lived from their friend (E5), how often they saw their friend (E6), and how often they contacted their friend either by mail or by phone (E7).

#### 6.2 RESULTS

##### 6.2.1 Parents and Grandparents

###### *How far away did children live from their parent(s)*

Over 50% of Canadians who did not live with one or both parents were within 50 km of them (Table 6.1). Of these, most lived within 10 km of one or both of their parents. However, another 15% to 23% lived beyond 1,000 km.

There was little difference between distance patterns of sons and daughters. If anything, sons seemed to stay closer to home than did daughters; 36% of sons lived within 10 km of a parent, compared with 32% of daughters.

A relationship between the living arrangements of parents and distance to children was apparent. When parents lived together, 36% of Canadians lived within 10 km; with another 19% living 11-50 km away. When parents were not living together because of separation, nearly the same proportion (34%) lived within 10 km of their mother, and 32% lived the same distance from their father. When one of the parents was deceased, 33% lived within 10 km of their mother and 27% within 10 km of their father.

Marital status also had some bearing on the proximity to the parent. Never-married children lived somewhat farther away from their parents than Canadians of any

other marital status, either married/common law, divorced, separated or widowed. For example, among never-married Canadians, 30% lived within 10 km of their mother, whereas about 35% of others lived within 10 km of their mother (data not shown). An additional 19% of Canadians, regardless of marital status lived within 11-50 km.

#### *How often did children see their parents*

As expected, the closer the child lived to a parent, the more likely it was that they saw them on a regular basis (Tables 6.2 and 6.3). Of those who lived within 10 km of one of their parents, an overwhelming 80% saw their parents daily or at least once a week. When living between 11-50 km from their parents, 52% had daily or weekly contact. For those living 51-100 km away, this proportion dropped to 23% and to 2% among those who lived over 100 km away.

Not only was distance lived from parents related to frequency of contact, but also there was a relationship between parental living arrangements and the frequency of contact. When parents lived together and within 10 km, 21% of Canadians saw their parents on a daily basis. An additional 63% saw their parents on a weekly basis. When parents lived 11-50 km away, these ratios dropped to 5% and 53%, respectively.

Among Canadians with a widowed parent, frequency of contact paralleled that for married parents. Parents who were separated had the lowest frequency of daily and weekly visits. Fifteen percent of children who lived within 10 km of a mother who was separated had daily contact and an additional 54% had weekly visits. For children living the same distance from their separated father contact was less frequent; 8% daily and 47% weekly. Daily visits were not common for children who lived 11-50 km away. However, 23% visited their father weekly, while 49% saw their mother on a weekly basis.

Analysis of the distance lived from parents by gender revealed no differences. However, examination of frequency of contact, revealed a clearer connection between frequency of contact and gender. Overall, 6% of men and 8% of women saw a parent on a daily basis; with an additional 32% of men and 33% of women having weekly contact. For those living within 10 km of their parents, 15% of sons and 21% of daughters visited daily. Weekly visits were more frequent, with little difference between sons and daughters (61% and 62%, respectively).

Among Canadians whose parents lived together and within 10 km, 18% of sons and 23% of daughters visited daily. Again, weekly visits by sons and daughters were similar (61% and 64%, respectively). Daily visits were few for sons but 21% for daughters whose mother was separated or divorced and within 10 km. Another 55% of sons and 54% of daughters had weekly visits.

Sons visited their separated or divorced fathers daily or weekly, slightly more than daughters (20% vs. 17%). Canadians with a widowed father visited more frequently (i.e. 6% daily and 24% weekly) than people with a separated father (2% and 17%, respectively).

#### *Satisfaction with contact*

Canadians were asked if they saw their parent(s) less often than they would like, more often than they would like, or about the right amount. In general, those who had the opportunity to see their parent(s) frequently were more satisfied with the frequency than others. Of those who saw their mother daily, 91% were satisfied with the frequency of the visits (Text Table 6.1), and 91% were satisfied with the daily visits with their father.

Although the gender of the interviewed person did not have any bearing on satisfaction levels, the gender of the parent did. For example, among those who had not seen their mother during the previous 12 months, 87% said the amount of contact was less often than they would like. Of people who did not see their father during this same period, 68% said the amount of contact was less than they would like.

People who reported they did not see their parent(s) enough were also asked what prevented them from seeing their parent(s) more often. The most frequently cited reason for not seeing their mother enough was distance (64%), followed by time (35%) and financial constraints (13%) (Text Table 6.2). For fathers, the proportions were 91%, 50% and 17%, respectively. As well, 11% stated that their father's time constraints were the reason for lack of contact. A poor relationship with their father was given by 4% of Canadians as reason for lack of contact. For mothers, this accounted for only 1% of reasons.

**TEXT TABLE 6.1**

Frequency of personal contact with mother and father by satisfaction with amount of time spent with parent, population aged 15 and over not living with one or both parents, Canada, 1990

Satisfaction with amount of time spent with parent	Frequency of contact													
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(Numbers in thousands)													
<b>Time spent with mother</b>														
Total	10,437	100	756	100	3,554	100	2,364	100	2,860	100	870	100	34	100
Less often than would like	4,820	46	29	4	765	22	1,101	47	2,168	76	757	87	--	--
More often than would like	299	3	41	5	92	3	68	3	68	2	32	4	--	--
About the right amount	5,276	51	687	91	2,696	76	1,188	50	621	22	81	9	--	--
Not stated	42	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	31	91
<b>Time spent with father</b>														
Total	8,159	100	573	100	2,481	100	1,797	100	2,338	100	833	100	137	100
Less often than would like	3,514	43	23	4	440	18	805	45	1,672	72	570	68	--	--
More often than would like	216	3	30	5	65	3	42	2	54	2	25	3	--	--
About the right amount	4,285	53	520	91	1,975	80	944	53	608	26	236	28	--	--
Not stated	144	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	131	96

General Social Survey, 1990

**TEXT TABLE 6.2**

Reason(s) for not seeing parents more often, population aged 15 and over not living with parents, Canada, 1990

Reason(s) <sup>1</sup> for not seeing parents more often	Mother		Father	
	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)				
Total	4,820	100	3,514	100
Distance	3,094	64	2,225	91
Poor relationship	68	1	109	4
Time	1,718	35	1,225	50
Parents' time	241	5	259	11
Health	36	1	--	--
Parents' health	51	1	--	--
Financial	622	13	411	17
Transportation	289	6	198	8
Family responsibilities	300	6	142	8
Other reasons	83	2	105	4

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Numbers do not add to total because of multiple responses.

*How often did children phone or write their mother*

Contact with parents was more frequent by letter or phone than in person. While 7% saw their mother daily, 15% either phoned their mother or wrote to her on a daily basis (Table 6.4). As well, 34% of Canadians saw their mother weekly, while 44% wrote or phoned. There was little change for monthly contact — 23% and 27%, respectively. While 36% of people saw their mother less than once a month (including not within past 12 months), only 13% phoned or wrote their mother on a similar basis.

The difference between sons and daughters in contact by letter or phone with their mother was higher than for visitations. Eight percent of sons wrote or phoned their mother daily; the proportion of daughters writing or calling daily was much larger, 22%. The proportion of weekly letters or calls was similar for sons and daughters — 43% and 45%, respectively.

Sons living within 10 km of their mother saw or talked to her mother with the same frequency: 15% saw their mother daily and 14% wrote or phoned daily. However, daughters were much more likely to talk or write to their mother daily (45%) than they were to see (22%) their mother daily.

For Canadians who lived between 11-50 km of their parents, the frequency of letters or calls was higher than visits for both sons and daughters. For example, 5% of daughters saw their mother daily, while 29% wrote or called her daily. For sons, there were very few daily visits, but 10% wrote or called on a daily basis.

### *Contacts with grandparent(s)*

Among Canadians with a grandparent still living, nearly as many saw their grandparent less than once a month (41%) as more than once a month (39%) (Text Table 6.3). As well, another 20% had not seen their grandparents in the 12 months prior to being surveyed.

Canadians aged 15-24 reported seeing their grandparents more often than did older people. As well, people who had never married reported more contact with their grandparent(s) than did others, which may, in part, be a reflection of age.

The number of contacts by telephone or letter was similar to personal contacts: 3% of Canadians had

daily and 13% had weekly contact by letter or phone with their grandparent(s) (Text Table 6.3). Another 22% had contact on a monthly basis, while 33% were in contact by letter or phone less than once a month. Fully 29% of Canadians had no contact with their grandparent(s) in the 12 months prior to the survey.

### **6.2.2 Brothers and Sisters**

#### *Personal contacts*

Overall, 7% of Canadians had daily contact with brothers or sisters not living with them (Table 6.5). Another 27% saw them weekly, 24% at least once a month and 31% less than once a month. Only 10% of Canadians had no contact within the past 12 months with siblings. While 52% of Canadians aged 15-24 saw their siblings daily or weekly, the same was true for only 37% of those aged 25-44, 26% of those aged 45-64 and 22% of people aged 65 and over. Proportionately, more people aged 65 and over (18%) reported no contact with their brothers or sisters within the past 12 months than all others.

**TEXT TABLE 6.3**

Frequency of contact with grandparent(s) by type of contact and age group, population aged 15 and over not living with grandparent(s), Canada, 1990

Type of contact and age group	Frequency of contact											
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Personal contact</b>												
Total	6,176	100	186	3	840	14	1,358	22	2,541	41	1,229	20
15-24	3,160	100	150	5	602	19	856	27	1,075	34	462	15
25-44	2,941	100	35	1	233	8	496	17	1,427	49	744	25
45 +	75	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	39	52	--	--
<b>Letter/phone contact</b>												
Total	6,176	100	211	3	822	13	1,330	22	2,023	33	1,766	29
15-24	3,160	100	151	5	577	18	857	27	890	28	670	21
25-44	2,941	100	57	2	242	8	457	16	1,119	38	1,058	36
45 +	75	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	38	51

General Social Survey, 1990

Few differences in frequency by age and gender were apparent except among Canadians aged 65 and over. While a similar proportion of men and women in this age group reported seeing their sibling(s) daily, weekly and less than monthly, more women (43%) than men (36%) reported contacts less frequent than once a month. More men (22%) than women (15%) reported no contact within the past 12 months.

Never-married Canadians had the most frequent contact with their brothers and sisters (Table 6.6). In fact, 14% reported they saw their siblings daily. This compares with just 6% of the married, 8% of people living common law, 5% of divorced people, 7% of people who were separated and 6% widows and widowers. Never-married Canadians (34%) and people living common law (32%) were more likely than others to report weekly contact. A larger proportion of widows and widowers (39%) and married people (34%) than others reported that they had contact with their brothers and sisters less frequently than once a month. As well, more widowed Canadians (17%) along with people who were divorced (12%) or separated (14%) reported no contact within the past 12 months with their siblings than did people who were married (10%), living common law (6%) or never married (6%).

#### ***Contacts by letter or phone***

While equal proportions of Canadians had daily personal contact and contact by phone or letter with their siblings (7%), more Canadians had weekly, less than weekly and monthly contact by phone than personal contact. Of Canadians who said that they had contact by letter or phone, 32% did so weekly, 30% at least once a month and 24% less than once a month (Table 6.7). Only 6% said they had not written or phoned any of their brothers or sisters within the past 12 months. While 53% of people aged 15-24 wrote or phoned their siblings daily or weekly, only 33% of people aged 65 and over did so.

Overall, women were more frequent letter writers or phone callers than were men. For example, 10% of women versus 4% of men reported daily letter or phone contact and 36% of women versus 29% of men had weekly letter or phone contacts. Although frequency of contact decreased with age for both men and women, in all age groups, women reported more frequent letter or phone contact with their brothers or sisters.

Comparison by marital status revealed that never-married Canadians and people living common law had more frequent contact than all others with their siblings. For example, 49% of never-married people and 43% of people living common law wrote or phoned their siblings daily or weekly, compared with 36% of married Canadians, 40% of divorced people, 37% of people who were separated and 38% of widows and widowers (Table 6.8). Regardless of marital status, women had a greater frequency of contact than did men.

### **6.2.3 Friends**

#### ***How many close friends do you have?***

In 1990, Canadians reported many close friends. While 16% said they had one to two friends, 33% reported three to five friends (Table 6.9). Another 17% reported six to nine close friends and 26% said they had ten or more friends. Only 7% of Canadians said they had no close friends.

Women (55%) were more likely to report one to five friends than men (44%) (Figure 6.1). However, more men (31%) than women (22%) said they had ten or more friends. The proportion who answered they had no friends was essentially the same for men and women (7% and 6%, respectively).

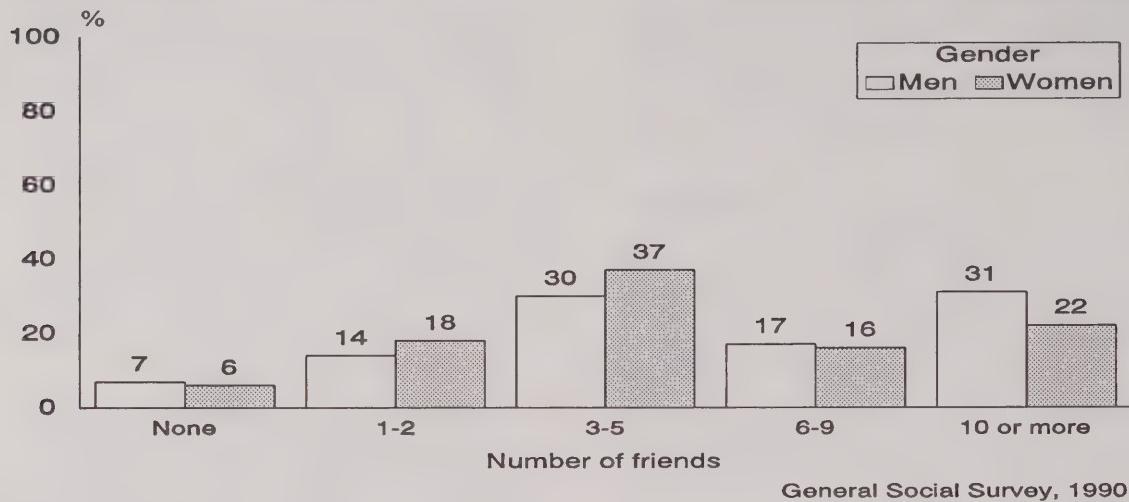
More older Canadians than younger Canadians said they had no close friends (Table 6.9). By age 65 and over, 15% reported no close friends. However, with increasing age, Canadians were more likely to have a large circle of friends (i.e. ten or more friends). At ages 15-24, 23% said they had ten or more close friends. This proportion increased to 25% among people aged 25-44 and 29% among Canadians aged 45-64. Thirty percent of seniors aged 65 and over said they had ten or more friends.

#### ***Is your closest friend male or female?***

When Canadians were asked the gender of their closest friend, as expected, most men answered that their closest friend was male (85%) and most women said that their closest friend was female (88%) (Text Table 6.4). Among women, with increasing age, the likelihood was greater that their best friend was a female, from 75% of those aged 15-24, to 94% for those aged 65 and over. For men, the proportion

**FIGURE 6.1**

Number of friends by gender, proportion of population aged 15 and over, Canada, 1990



General Social Survey, 1990

**TEXT TABLE 6.4**

Gender of closest friend by age group and gender, population aged 15 and over having a close friend, Canada, 1990

Gender and gender of closest friend	Age group									
	Total		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	19,139	100	3,755	100	8,404	100	4,621	100	2,359	100
Men	9,000	47	1,906	51	4,066	48	2,142	46	885	38
Women	9,988	52	1,844	49	4,288	51	2,437	53	1,419	60
Not stated	152	1	--	--	50	1	41	1	56	2
<b>Men</b>										
Total	9,330	100	1,909	100	4,177	100	2,263	100	981	100
Men	7,905	85	1,453	76	3,633	87	1,999	88	821	84
Women	1,326	14	455	24	509	12	233	10	128	13
Not stated	99	1	--	--	35	1	--	--	32	3
<b>Women</b>										
Total	9,810	100	1,846	100	4,228	100	2,357	100	1,378	100
Men	1,094	11	453	25	433	10	143	6	64	5
Women	8,662	88	1,389	75	3,779	89	2,204	93	1,291	94
Not stated	53	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	23	2

General Social Survey, 1990

whose closest friend was male peaked between 45 and 64 years of age (88%).

The youngest age group (15-24 years) had the highest proportion of opposite gender friends: 24% of men stated that their closest friend was female and 25% of women said their closest friend was male. Among men aged 25 and over, the proportion with a woman as their closest friend ranged from 10% to 13%. Among women of the same age groups, the proportions ranged from 5% to 10%. Women aged 65 and over were the least likely group to report an opposite sex friend.

#### *Where did you meet your closest friend?*

In general, most friendships started at school (30%), in the home or neighbourhood (23%), or at work (21%) (Table 6.10). However, these locations differed by gender and age. For those aged 15-24, the majority started their friendships at school (58%), followed by in their home or neighbourhood (14%). In this age group, there were few differences by gender. Among Canadians aged 25-44, the proportion of close friendships starting at school dropped to 34% for men and 29% for women. As would be expected, a larger proportion of people in this age group than those aged 15-24 reported meeting their closest friend at work. In fact, 27% of men and 25% of women met their closest friend at work.

Among Canadians aged 45-64, the location where most friendships started for men was the workplace (32%). For women, it was the home or neighbourhood (33%) followed by in the workplace (21%). Older Canadians (aged 65 and over) were more likely to have started friendships in their neighbourhood (37% for men, 39% for women). For men, workplace friendships still had a high proportion at 21%, whereas it had fallen to 11% for women.

#### *Frequency of contact with closest friend*

Most Canadians saw their closest friend at least once a week (39%) or on a daily basis (19%) (Text Table 6.5). Another 21% saw their friend at least once a month. However, younger Canadians had more frequent contact with their closest friend than others. Among Canadians aged 15-24, 46% saw their closest friend daily, compared with 14% of people aged 25-44. Only 11% of people aged 45-64 and those aged 65 and over saw their friends on a daily basis.

Canadians, who were never married (Table 6.11), saw their closest friend more often than all others. For example, 39% of never-married people saw their friend on a daily basis, with an additional 35% on a weekly basis. For persons who were married, daily visits dropped to 11%, with weekly visits increasing slightly to 39%. There were no substantial differences

**TEXT TABLE 6.5**

Frequency of personal contact with closest friend by age group, population aged 15 and over not living with closest friend, Canada, 1990

Frequency of contact	Age group									
	Total		15-24		25-44		45-64		65+	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
Total	19,062	100	3,725	100	8,371	100	4,614	100	2,353	100
Daily	3,688	19	1,728	46	1,210	14	494	11	256	11
At least once a week	7,457	39	1,244	33	3,182	38	2,037	44	995	42
At least once a month	4,026	21	399	11	1,980	24	1,148	25	499	21
Less than once a month	3,182	17	296	8	1,663	20	764	17	459	20
Not within past 12 months	557	3	55	1	283	3	133	3	86	4
Not stated	151	1	--	--	51	1	39	1	58	2

General Social Survey, 1990

between men and women. The greatest differences were among the divorced. Nineteen percent of divorced men saw their closest friend on a daily basis and 51% saw him/her weekly. For women, the proportions were 16% and 48%, respectively.

Never-married Canadians were also more frequent letter writers and phone callers than all others (Table 6.12). For example, 34% of never-married people talked or wrote to their friend daily, while the same was true for only 9% of married Canadians and 11% of people living common law. Of never-married women, 41% wrote or called their friend daily and 38% weekly. For never-married men, 27% wrote or phoned daily and 44% weekly.

## 6.3 DISCUSSION

### *Parents and grandparents*

Findings from the 1990 GSS on contacts with family and friends add an important dimension to the understanding of family and friendship relationships. With the exception of the 1985 GSS where questions on contacts with family and friends were asked (see Stone, 1988), there are no other national data in which these aspects are explored among Canadians of all age groups. The information provided by the 1990 GSS is thus extremely important in assessing a central aspect of people's lives.

Contacts with family and friends are important to study for several reasons. They reveal the networks of social connections people have and how they work. Contacts also are important to health and well-being. For example, those who have social contacts are more likely to be better integrated into society and to have a lesser sense of social isolation, which works against suicide, anti-social behaviours, loneliness and a host of other social problems. Being part of a social network, in essence, is vital to what makes us human and what makes us strong.

Previous research, largely with smaller samples, has focused on numbers of people with whom one maintains contact, and on the effects of the contacts on well-being (see, for example, Connidis, 1989a; 1989b; Hollinger & Heller, 1990; Leigh, 1982; Stone, 1988). Much, but not all of the previous research in this area, has focused on older adults and their family ties and friendship networks (Connidis, 1989). This is not surprising given that it is often adult children's contacts

with their parents, or the reverse, that are of particular interest. Studies of contacts among families and friends are necessary to understand what family and caring means in the wider sense than a focus on families who live in the same household allows.

The finding that over one-half of Canadians live in close proximity to at least one of their parents may suggest that Canadians are not so geographically mobile as is often thought, and remain tied to family in ways that determine where they live in adult life. That adult children live closer to mothers than to fathers or that mothers live closer to adult children than do fathers adds force to the conclusion that it is not simply coincidence that adult children live close to a parent. That it is never-married adult children who live furthest away suggests the possibility that once married, adult children might become more familial overall, including living closer to a parent.

In 1990, the amount of contact reported by respondents with their parents and grandparents suggests that the often heard story that adult children have little interest in their parents or grandparents as they pursue their own careers and families is not supported by these data. In fact, it is those aged 15-24, who might be expected to be the most busy with their own lives, who report having the most contact with their grandparents. Even among those who live at a greater distance, there is considerable contact with parents, although predictably it is somewhat less frequent.

A tendency for daughters more than sons to have daily contacts with a parent when living in close proximity emerges here, consistent with other research (Cicirelli, 1983; Connidis, 1989b; Leigh, 1982; Statistics Canada, 1991; Stone, 1988). The surprise in these findings is that it is sons who live closer to at least one parent rather than daughters.

The findings on satisfaction reveal that, contrary to some popular beliefs, Canadians are, on average, content with the amount of contact they have with their parents. Contact with mothers seems more important, however, than contact with fathers, supporting earlier studies and models of family where mothers are more central than fathers (Hollinger & Heller, 1990).

Contact by means other than personal visits reveals the often found gender difference — it is daughters who do the phoning or writing much more than sons. This contact means that daughters would be the first to know of any problems with the parent and be the first

ones to be called upon to help (Cicirelli, 1983; Connidis, 1989b; Matthews, 1987; McDaniel, 1993).

### *Brothers and sisters*

Adult sibling contacts have not received the research attention that has been given to contacts between parents and adult children (Connidis, 1989b:71-72; Gold, 1987). It could be that sibling research has focused primarily on sibling rivalry studies to the neglect of other aspects. This is interesting because the sibling relationship can be of longer duration than the parent/child relationship. Sibling relationships, as Connidis points out, are unique in the sharing of cultural background, common family experience, similarity of physical and perhaps health situations, and shared life experiences. Thus, it would seem that siblings might be an important resource for aging individuals, a source of companionship, solace and support.

Generally high levels of contact are reported with siblings, although less high than with parents. With age, contacts with siblings decreased, somewhat surprisingly. Findings here are generally consistent with those of Connidis (1989a; 1989b) and Gold (1987). Connidis (1989a:430) cautions against the interpretation that lack of contact with siblings means that there is no relationship; rather, she suggests that it could be "dormant," and resumed when needed or desired. Connidis further argues (1989a:431) that the future could see an increase in the importance of sibling ties to mid-life and older Canadians. She cites changing family trends, such as increased divorce and childlessness, as well as the smaller number of closely-spaced children as reasons for her prediction.

Geographical proximity, not highlighted in analyses presented here, was found by Connidis (1989a) as the key to degree of sibling contact. She finds important gender differences as well, with sisters seeing each other more often than brothers, that are not found in the 1990 GSS initial analyses. With more detailed analyses, gender nuances might emerge. The finding that single siblings had the most contact is consistent with Connidis' (1989a) and with Gold's (1987) research.

### *Friends*

Friendship ties are even less well understood than kinship ties (Hollinger & Heller, 1990). This may not be surprising since definitions of friends differ widely,

making the asking of questions about friends challenging. Hollinger and Heller (1990) point out, from their study of seven countries, that enormous cultural differences exist in how friends are seen and who are seen as friends. To Americans and Australians (and presumably Canadians as well, although Hollinger and Heller did not include Canada in their study), friends are defined in a wider and more casual way than for Germans, Austrians and Hungarians, who tend to see friends as closer and longer lasting. Britons and Italians fall somewhere in between.

Canadians report having many friends, suggesting that they are part of social networks. Women tend to report having more friends than men, and older people have more than younger people, with same gender friends being the most common experience. The kinds of relationships people have with friends, as compared with siblings, parents or grandparents are not known from these data. Connidis and Davies (1992) argue for a model of analysis of contacts that includes the various options for companionship and support. They find, for example, that it is the entire network of kin and friends that one has that determines the nature of the relationship one develops with friends. An earlier study by Connidis and Davies (1990) finds that different actors in one's social network are called upon for different purposes. This suggests that studies of contacts alone may not be enough to ascertain much about the relationship. Nonetheless, national data on social and support networks provide a much needed basis for further analysis and research.

In concluding this chapter, unanswered questions remain and await further analysis of the 1990 General Social Survey data and further research sparked by these findings. One question arises from the cross-national study by Hollinger and Heller (1990); that is, that ethnicity might matter to contacts with family and friends. Hints emerge from the work of Dreidger and Chappell (1987) that this might be the case. It deserves exploration.

Another unanswered question which emerges from this discussion is the need for greater attention to the effects of changing family patterns on contacts among family and friends. What, for example, is the effect of the recent phenomena where adult children continue to live with their parents or return home to live with their parents, known as the "cluttered nest" (Boyd & Pryor, 1989) on future contacts with parents and grandparents, with siblings and with friends?

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**TABLE 6.1**

**Parents' living arrangements by gender and distance living from parent(s), population aged 15 and over not living with one or both parents, Canada, 1990**

Gender and distance living from parent(s)	Parents' living arrangements											
	Parents live together		Do not live together				Father deceased		Mother deceased			
			Distance from mother		Distance from father		Distance from mother		Distance from father			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
Total	5,598	100	1,329	100	1,569	100	3,430	100	900	100		
Within 10 km	2,023	36	446	34	496	32	1,126	33	245	27		
11 - 50 km	1,079	19	268	20	309	20	656	19	163	18		
51 - 100 km	434	8	98	7	132	8	243	7	92	10		
101 - 200 km	411	7	79	6	89	6	234	7	49	5		
201 - 1,000 km	789	14	191	14	211	13	438	13	105	12		
Over 1,000 km	838	15	231	17	296	19	715	21	204	23		
Don't know/Not stated	-	-	-	-	36	2	-	-	42	5		
<b>Men</b>												
Total	2,678	100	648	100	739	100	1,604	100	487	100		
Within 10 km	1,061	40	221	34	240	32	542	34	138	28		
11 - 50 km	482	18	120	18	135	18	303	19	95	20		
51 - 100 km	182	7	45	7	63	9	107	7	39	8		
101 - 200 km	166	6	45	7	54	7	105	7	27	5		
201 - 1,000 km	369	14	93	14	94	13	166	10	55	11		
Over 1,000 km	405	15	114	18	133	18	368	23	115	24		
Don't know/Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
<b>Women</b>												
Total	2,920	100	680	100	830	100	1,826	100	413	100		
Within 10 km	962	33	225	33	256	31	584	32	106	26		
11 - 50 km	596	20	148	22	174	21	353	19	68	16		
51 - 100 km	252	9	53	8	69	8	136	7	53	13		
101 - 200 km	245	8	35	5	35	4	129	7	23	6		
201 - 1,000 km	420	14	98	14	117	14	271	15	50	12		
Over 1,000 km	433	15	117	17	163	20	347	19	89	21		
Don't know/Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	6		

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TABLE 6.2

Frequency of personal contact with mother by gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from mother, population aged 15 and over not living with mother, Canada, 1990

Gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from mother	Frequency of contact with mother											
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a monthly/Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
<b>Total</b>	10,437	100	756	7	3,554	34	2,364	23	3,730	36	34	0
Within 10 km	3,622	100	663	18	2,252	62	583	16	124	3	—	—
11-50 km	2,019	100	78	4	1,034	51	717	36	190	9	—	—
51-100 km	774	100	—	—	186	24	416	54	165	21	—	—
Over 100 km	3,958	100	—	—	83	2	645	16	3,221	81	—	—
<b>Parents live together</b>	5,598	100	480	9	1,997	36	1,292	23	1,808	32	—	—
Total	2,023	100	416	21	1,268	63	297	15	43	2	—	—
Within 10 km	1,079	100	54	5	571	53	374	35	79	7	—	—
11-50 km	434	100	—	—	115	27	246	57	67	16	—	—
Over 100 km	2,038	100	—	—	42	2	376	18	1,615	79	—	—
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from mother</b>	1,329	100	80	6	395	30	333	25	519	39	—	—
Total	446	100	68	15	241	54	104	23	32	7	—	—
Within 10 km	268	100	—	—	131	49	83	31	43	16	—	—
11-50 km	98	100	—	—	—	—	56	58	29	30	—	—
Over 100 km	502	100	—	—	—	—	87	17	404	81	—	—
<b>Father deceased - distance from mother</b>	3,430	100	194	6	1,127	33	725	21	1,376	40	—	—
Total	1,126	100	177	16	720	64	180	16	48	4	—	—
Within 10 km	656	100	—	—	318	49	260	40	65	10	—	—
11-50 km	243	100	—	—	58	24	114	47	68	28	—	—
Over 100 km	1,386	100	—	—	—	—	171	12	1,182	85	—	—
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>	4,965	100	303	6	1,638	33	1,220	25	1,784	36	—	—
Within 10 km	1,828	100	272	15	1,115	61	370	20	69	4	—	—
11-50 km	910	100	—	—	419	46	378	41	88	10	—	—
51-100 km	333	100	—	—	76	23	186	56	66	20	—	—
Over 100 km	1,852	100	—	—	27	1	286	15	1,537	83	—	—
<b>Parents live together</b>	2,678	100	220	8	958	36	635	24	852	32	—	—
Total	1,061	100	195	18	649	61	195	18	—	—	—	—
Within 10 km	482	100	—	—	245	51	180	37	37	8	—	—
11-50 km	182	100	—	—	55	30	102	56	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	940	100	—	—	—	—	158	17	770	82	—	—
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from mother</b>	648	100	26	4	180	28	179	28	264	41	—	—
Total	221	100	—	—	121	55	59	27	—	—	—	—
Within 10 km	120	100	—	—	46	39	48	40	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	45	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	252	100	—	—	—	—	49	19	197	78	—	—
<b>Father deceased - distance from mother</b>	1,604	100	58	4	495	31	392	24	655	41	—	—
Total	542	100	57	10	343	63	114	21	27	5	—	—
Within 10 km	303	100	—	—	126	41	150	49	28	9	—	—
11-50 km	107	100	—	—	—	—	61	57	29	27	—	—
Over 100 km	639	100	—	—	—	—	68	11	560	88	—	—

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**TABLE 6.2**

**Frequency of personal contact with mother by gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from mother, population aged 15 and over not living with mother, Canada, 1990 - Concluded**

Gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from mother	Frequency of contact with mother											
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month/Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Women</b>												
<b>Total</b>												
Total	5,472	100	453	8	1,916	35	1,144	21	1,946	36	—	—
Within 10 km	1,794	100	390	22	1,137	63	213	12	55	3	—	—
11-50 km	1,109	100	53	5	614	55	339	31	102	9	—	—
51-100 km	441	100	—	—	110	25	230	52	99	22	—	—
Over 100 km	2,106	100	—	—	56	3	359	17	1,684	80	—	—
<b>Parents live together</b>												
Total	2,920	100	260	9	1,039	36	657	23	957	33	—	—
Within 10 km	962	100	221	23	619	64	102	11	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	596	100	33	6	326	55	194	33	42	7	—	—
51-100 km	252	100	—	—	61	24	144	57	46	18	—	—
Over 100 km	1,098	100	—	—	33	3	218	20	844	77	—	—
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from mother</b>												
Total	680	100	54	8	215	32	154	23	256	38	—	—
Within 10 km	225	100	47	21	121	54	45	20	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	148	100	—	—	85	57	35	24	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	53	100	—	—	—	—	33	62	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	250	100	—	—	—	—	38	15	207	83	—	—
<b>Father deceased - distance from mother</b>												
Total	1,826	100	137	7	632	35	333	18	721	39	—	—
Within 10 km	584	100	120	21	377	65	66	11	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	353	100	—	—	193	55	110	31	37	10	—	—
51-100 km	136	100	—	—	43	32	53	39	40	29	—	—
Over 100 km	747	100	—	—	—	—	103	14	622	83	—	—

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TABLE 6.3

Frequency of personal contact with father by gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from father, population aged 15 and over not living with father, Canada, 1990

Gender, parents' living arrangement and distance living from father	Frequency of contact with father											
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month/Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
<b>Total</b>	8,159	100	573	7	2,481	30	1,797	22	3,171	39	137	2
Within 10 km	2,618	100	485	19	1,584	60	411	16	138	5	—	—
11-50 km	1,561	100	72	5	685	44	549	35	253	16	—	—
51-100 km	686	100	—	—	148	22	345	50	184	27	—	—
Over 100 km	3,093	100	—	—	64	2	486	16	2,533	82	—	—
<b>Parents live together</b>	5,598	100	480	9	1,997	36	1,292	23	1,808	32	—	—
Total	2,023	100	416	21	1,268	63	297	15	43	2	—	—
Within 10 km	1,079	100	54	5	571	53	374	35	79	7	—	—
11-50 km	434	100	—	—	115	27	246	57	67	16	—	—
Over 100 km	2,038	100	—	—	42	2	376	18	1,615	79	—	—
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from father</b>	1,569	100	38	2	264	17	314	20	944	60	—	—
Total	350	100	29	8	163	47	79	23	79	23	—	—
Within 10 km	316	100	—	—	72	23	105	33	135	43	—	—
11-50 km	160	100	—	—	—	—	49	30	89	56	—	—
Over 100 km	696	100	—	—	—	—	76	11	605	87	—	—
<b>Mother deceased - distance from father</b>	900	100	56	6	220	24	189	21	399	44	36	4
Total	245	100	41	17	153	62	35	14	—	—	—	—
Within 10 km	163	100	—	—	42	26	68	42	38	23	—	—
11-50 km	92	100	—	—	—	—	51	56	28	30	—	—
Over 100 km	358	100	—	—	—	—	34	9	311	87	—	—
<b>Men</b>												
<b>Total</b>	3,942	100	266	7	1,226	31	889	23	1,495	38	66	2
Within 10 km	1,361	100	220	16	831	61	248	18	61	4	—	—
11-50 km	737	100	38	5	300	41	276	37	124	17	—	—
51-100 km	298	100	—	—	75	25	151	51	68	23	—	—
Over 100 km	1,448	100	—	—	—	—	214	15	1,208	83	—	—
<b>Parents live together</b>	2,678	100	220	8	958	36	635	24	852	32	—	—
Total	1,061	100	195	18	649	61	195	18	—	—	—	—
Within 10 km	482	100	—	—	245	51	180	37	37	8	—	—
11-50 km	182	100	—	—	55	30	102	56	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	940	100	—	—	—	—	158	17	770	82	—	—
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from father</b>	739	100	—	—	150	20	158	21	411	56	—	—
Total	161	100	—	—	91	56	35	21	28	17	—	—
Within 10 km	160	100	—	—	36	23	59	37	61	38	—	—
11-50 km	77	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	47	—	—
Over 100 km	313	100	—	—	—	—	40	13	261	83	—	—
<b>Mother deceased - distance from father</b>	487	100	32	7	118	24	95	20	224	46	—	—
Total	138	100	—	—	91	66	—	—	—	—	—	—
Within 10 km	95	100	—	—	—	—	37	39	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	39	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	196	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	177	90	—	—

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TABLE 6.3

Frequency of personal contact with father by gender, parents' living arrangements and distance living from father, population aged 15 and over not living with father, Canada, 1990 - Concluded

Gender, parents' living arrangement and distance living from father	Frequency of contact with father																							
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month/Not within past 12 months		Not stated													
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%												
	(Numbers in thousands)																							
<b>Women</b>																								
<b>Total</b>																								
Total	4,217	100	307	7	1,255	30	908	22	1,677	40	71	2												
Within 10 km	1,257	100	265	21	752	60	163	13	77	6	—	—												
11-50 km	823	100	34	4	385	47	274	33	130	16	—	—												
51-100 km	387	100	—	—	73	19	195	50	117	30	—	—												
Over 100 km	1,645	100	—	—	44	3	272	17	1,325	81	—	—												
<b>Parents live together</b>																								
Total	2,920	100	260	9	1,039	36	657	23	957	33	—	—												
Within 10 km	962	100	221	23	619	64	102	11	—	—	—	—												
11-50 km	596	100	33	6	326	55	194	33	42	7	—	—												
51-100 km	252	100	—	—	61	24	144	57	46	18	—	—												
Over 100 km	1,098	100	—	—	33	3	218	20	844	77	—	—												
<b>Parents separated/divorced - distance from father</b>																								
Total	830	100	24	3	114	14	155	19	533	64	—	—												
Within 10 km	189	100	—	—	72	38	45	24	51	27	—	—												
11-50 km	156	100	—	—	35	23	47	30	74	47	—	—												
51-100 km	82	100	—	—	—	—	24	29	53	64	—	—												
Over 100 km	383	100	—	—	—	—	36	9	345	90	—	—												
<b>Mother deceased - distance from father</b>																								
Total	413	100	23	6	102	25	93	23	175	42	—	—												
Within 10 km	106	100	22	21	62	58	—	—	—	—	—	—												
11-50 km	68	100	—	—	24	35	31	45	—	—	—	—												
51-100 km	53	100	—	—	—	—	27	51	—	—	—	—												
Over 100 km	162	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	134	83	—	—												

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**TABLE 6.4**

**Frequency of contact with mother by letter or phone, by gender and distance living from mother, population aged 15 and over not living with mother, Canada, 1990**

Gender and distance living from mother	Frequency of contact with mother by letter or phone													
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	10,437	100	1,591	15	4,590	44	2,807	27	947	9	435	4	67	1
Within 10 km	3,622	100	1,064	29	1,842	51	365	10	146	4	191	5	--	--
11-50 km	2,019	100	418	21	1,077	53	313	15	128	6	79	4	--	--
51-100 km	774	100	70	9	389	50	208	27	65	8	38	5	--	--
Over 100 km	3,958	100	36	1	1,281	32	1,911	48	601	15	115	3	--	--
Don't know/Not stated	64	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	32	50
<b>Men</b>														
Total	4,965	100	376	8	2,137	43	1,569	32	596	12	252	5	34	1
Within 10 km	1,828	100	257	14	1,028	56	299	16	116	6	119	6	--	--
11-50 km	910	100	95	10	498	55	193	21	76	8	46	5	--	--
51-100 km	333	100	--	--	160	48	103	31	40	12	--	--	--	--
Over 100 km	1,852	100	--	--	451	24	968	52	358	19	67	4	--	--
Don't know/Not stated	41	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>														
Total	5,472	100	1,215	22	2,452	45	1,238	23	351	6	183	3	33	1
Within 10 km	1,794	100	807	45	814	45	66	4	30	2	73	4	--	--
11-50 km	1,109	100	323	29	580	52	120	11	52	5	33	3	--	--
51-100 km	441	100	50	11	229	52	105	24	25	6	29	7	--	--
Over 100 km	2,106	100	31	1	830	39	943	45	244	12	48	2	--	--
Don't know/Not stated	23	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 6.5**

**Frequency of personal contact with sibling(s) by age group and gender, population aged 15 and over not living with sibling(s), Canada, 1990**

Gender and frequency of contact	Age group									
	Total		15-24		25-44		45-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	17,712	100	2,311	100	8,361	100	4,694	100	2,345	100
Daily	1,322	7	334	14	651	8	211	4	126	5
At least once a week	4,749	27	885	38	2,412	29	1,044	22	409	17
At least once a month	4,308	24	480	21	2,278	27	1,126	24	424	18
Less than once a month	5,548	31	447	19	2,426	29	1,729	37	946	40
Not within past 12 months	1,685	10	101	4	577	7	578	12	430	18
Not stated	100	1	66	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
Total	8,580	100	1,134	100	4,135	100	2,290	100	1,020	100
Daily	647	8	163	14	333	8	101	4	50	5
At least once a week	2,255	26	432	38	1,147	28	503	22	173	17
At least once a month	2,110	25	238	21	1,156	28	524	23	193	19
Less than once a month	2,647	31	224	20	1,203	29	848	37	371	36
Not within past 12 months	862	10	40	4	282	7	313	14	227	22
Not stated	59	1	38	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
Total	9,132	100	1,177	100	4,225	100	2,404	100	1,325	100
Daily	675	7	171	15	317	8	111	5	76	6
At least once a week	2,493	27	453	38	1,264	30	541	22	236	18
At least once a month	2,198	24	242	21	1,123	27	602	25	231	17
Less than once a month	2,901	32	223	19	1,223	29	881	37	574	43
Not within past 12 months	823	9	61	5	295	7	265	11	203	15
Not stated	41	0	—	--	—	—	—	—	—	—

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**TABLE 6.6**

**Frequency of personal contact with sibling(s) by marital status and gender, population aged 15 and over not living with sibling(s), Canada, 1990**

Gender and frequency of contact	Marital status															
	Total		Married		Common law		Divorced		Separated		Widowed		Never married		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(Numbers in thousands)															
<b>Both genders</b>																
Total	17,712	100	10,540	100	1,521	100	758	100	451	100	924	100	3,425	100	94	100
Daily	1,322	7	598	6	127	8	41	5	30	7	59	6	464	14	—	—
At least once a week	4,749	27	2,622	25	486	32	196	26	101	22	171	18	1,159	34	—	—
At least once a month	4,308	24	2,616	25	407	27	183	24	110	24	177	19	791	23	24	25
Less than once a month	5,548	31	3,622	34	406	27	244	32	141	31	362	39	743	22	31	33
Not within past 12 months	1,685	10	1,065	10	92	6	93	12	65	14	153	17	196	6	—	—
Not stated	100	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72	2	—	—
<b>Men</b>																
Total	8,580	100	5,230	100	757	100	273	100	187	100	172	100	1,912	100	49	100
Daily	647	8	312	6	68	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	233	12	—	—
At least once a week	2,255	26	1,253	24	253	33	52	19	34	18	22	13	635	33	—	—
At least once a month	2,110	25	1,285	25	199	26	74	27	43	23	48	28	448	23	—	—
Less than once a month	2,647	31	1,791	34	183	24	87	32	61	33	69	40	440	23	—	—
Not within past 12 months	862	10	578	11	52	7	45	17	36	19	26	15	112	6	—	—
Not stated	59	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	2	—	—
<b>Women</b>																
Total	9,132	100	5,311	100	764	100	485	100	264	100	752	100	1,512	100	44	100
Daily	675	7	286	5	59	8	26	5	—	—	54	7	231	15	—	—
At least once a week	2,493	27	1,369	26	234	31	143	30	67	25	149	20	524	35	—	—
At least once a month	2,198	24	1,331	25	207	27	110	23	67	26	129	17	343	23	—	—
Less than once a month	2,901	32	1,830	34	222	29	157	32	79	30	293	39	303	20	—	—
Not within past 12 months	823	9	487	9	40	5	48	10	28	11	127	17	84	6	—	—
Not stated	41	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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TABLE 6.7

Frequency of contact with sibling(s) by letter or phone, by age group and gender,  
population aged 15 and over not living with sibling(s), Canada, 1990

Gender and frequency of contact	Age group									
	Total		15-24		25-44		45-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	17,712	100	2,311	100	8,361	100	4,694	100	2,345	100
Daily	1,256	7	254	11	598	7	241	5	163	7
At least once a week	5,730	32	974	42	2,877	34	1,266	27	613	26
At least once a month	5,368	30	563	24	2,707	32	1,444	31	655	28
Less than once a month	4,203	24	235	10	1,802	22	1,450	31	715	30
Not within past 12 months	1,049	6	220	10	355	4	287	6	187	8
Not stated	107	1	66	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
Total	8,580	100	1,134	100	4,135	100	2,290	100	1,020	100
Daily	365	4	86	8	189	5	60	3	30	3
At least once a week	2,464	29	474	42	1,253	30	511	22	226	22
At least once a month	2,711	32	278	25	1,413	34	742	32	279	27
Less than once a month	2,366	28	140	12	1,046	25	807	35	373	37
Not within past 12 months	613	7	119	10	218	5	169	7	107	10
Not stated	61	1	38	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
Total	9,132	100	1,177	100	4,225	100	2,404	100	1,325	100
Daily	891	10	167	14	409	10	182	8	133	10
At least once a week	3,266	36	501	43	1,623	38	756	31	387	29
At least once a month	2,657	29	285	24	1,294	31	702	29	376	28
Less than once a month	1,836	20	96	8	756	18	643	27	342	26
Not within past 12 months	436	5	101	9	137	3	117	5	81	6
Not stated	46	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 6.8**

**Frequency of contact with sibling(s) by letter or phone, by marital status and gender, population aged 15 and over not living with sibling(s), Canada, 1990**

Gender and frequency of contact	Marital status													
	Total		Married		Common law		Divorced		Separated		Widowed		Never married	Not stated
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	17,712	100	10,540	100	1,521	100	758	100	451	100	924	100	3,425	100
Daily	1,256	7	601	6	132	9	65	9	24	5	86	9	345	10
At least once a week	5,730	32	3,194	30	522	34	237	31	146	32	272	29	1,339	39
At least once a month	5,368	30	3,339	32	485	32	218	29	111	24	267	29	926	27
Less than once a month	4,203	24	2,870	27	296	19	190	25	111	25	227	25	480	14
Not within past 12 months	1,049	6	515	5	81	5	47	6	55	12	71	8	263	8
Not stated	107	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	72	2
<b>Men</b>														
Total	8,580	100	5,230	100	757	100	273	100	187	100	172	100	1,912	100
Daily	365	4	173	3	41	5	--	--	--	--	--	--	133	7
At least once a week	2,464	29	1,325	25	260	34	72	26	48	26	41	24	709	37
At least once a month	2,711	32	1,717	33	233	31	92	34	44	24	58	33	557	29
Less than once a month	2,366	28	1,678	32	171	23	82	30	57	31	53	31	310	16
Not within past 12 months	613	7	326	6	51	7	--	--	34	18	--	--	158	8
Not stated	61	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	45	2
<b>Women</b>														
Total	9,132	100	5,311	100	764	100	485	100	264	100	752	100	1,512	100
Daily	891	10	428	8	90	12	57	12	--	--	80	11	211	14
At least once a week	3,266	36	1,870	35	263	34	165	34	98	37	231	31	631	42
At least once a month	2,657	29	1,622	31	253	33	126	26	66	25	209	28	368	24
Less than once a month	1,836	20	1,192	22	125	16	108	22	54	20	174	23	170	11
Not within past 12 months	436	5	189	4	30	4	28	6	--	--	57	8	105	7
Not stated	46	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 6.9

Number of friends by age group and gender, population aged 15 and over,  
Canada, 1990

Gender and number of friends	Age group									
	Total population		15-24		25-44		45-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	20,526	100	3,838	100	8,787	100	5,110	100	2,790	100
No friends	1,386	7	83	2	383	4	490	10	431	15
1-2 friends	3,277	16	558	15	1,481	17	832	16	406	15
3-5 friends	6,812	33	1,675	44	3,150	36	1,377	27	610	22
6-9 friends	3,431	17	629	16	1,521	17	870	17	411	15
10 or more friends	5,425	26	888	23	2,212	25	1,492	29	834	30
Not stated	194	1	--	--	41	0	50	1	99	4
<b>Men</b>										
Total	10,038	100	1,955	100	4,364	100	2,526	100	1,193	100
No friends	709	7	46	2	187	4	263	10	212	18
1-2 friends	1,430	14	237	12	677	16	365	14	151	13
3-5 friends	2,971	30	827	42	1,396	32	546	22	202	17
6-9 friends	1,746	17	342	18	772	18	464	18	167	14
10 or more friends	3,103	31	500	26	1,307	30	876	35	420	35
Not stated	80	1	--	--	24	1	--	--	41	3
<b>Women</b>										
Total	10,487	100	1,884	100	4,423	100	2,584	100	1,597	100
No friends	678	6	37	2	195	4	227	9	218	14
1-2 friends	1,848	18	321	17	804	18	467	18	255	16
3-5 friends	3,841	37	848	45	1,754	40	831	32	408	26
6-9 friends	1,685	16	287	15	748	17	406	16	244	15
10 or more friends	2,322	22	388	21	905	20	616	24	414	26
Not stated	114	1	--	--	--	--	37	1	58	4

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 6.10**

**Place where friendship with closest friend started by age group and gender, population aged 15 and over having a close friend, Canada, 1990**

Gender and place where friendship started	Age group									
	Total		15-24		25-44		45-64		65 +	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	19,139	100	3,755	100	8,404	100	4,621	100	2,359	100
School	5,664	30	2,168	58	2,648	32	582	13	266	11
Work	4,095	21	323	9	2,172	26	1,237	27	364	15
Club or organization	1,439	8	195	5	538	6	461	10	245	10
Church	658	3	59	2	217	3	216	5	166	7
Home or neighbourhood	4,322	23	534	14	1,539	18	1,350	29	899	38
Through family	1,218	6	146	4	504	6	370	8	198	8
Through friend	1,144	6	246	7	561	7	239	5	98	4
Other/Not stated	600	3	84	2	225	3	165	4	124	5
<b>Men</b>										
Total	9,330	100	1,909	100	4,177	100	2,263	100	981	100
School	2,908	31	1,107	58	1,411	34	293	13	98	10
Work	2,235	24	165	9	1,134	27	730	32	207	21
Club or organization	769	8	106	6	302	7	266	12	95	10
Church	258	3	—	—	93	2	74	3	57	6
Home or neighbourhood	1,946	21	307	16	713	17	564	25	362	37
Through family	463	5	55	3	168	4	168	7	73	7
Through friend	447	5	104	5	225	5	89	4	30	3
Other/Not stated	302	3	32	2	131	3	79	3	60	6
<b>Women</b>										
Total	9,810	100	1,846	100	4,228	100	2,357	100	1,378	100
School	2,756	28	1,062	57	1,237	29	289	12	168	12
Work	1,860	19	158	9	1,038	25	506	21	157	11
Club or organization	670	7	90	5	236	6	195	8	149	11
Church	400	4	—	—	124	3	143	6	109	8
Home or neighbourhood	2,376	24	227	12	826	20	786	33	537	39
Through family	755	8	91	5	336	8	202	9	125	9
Through friend	696	7	142	8	336	8	150	6	68	5
Other/Not stated	297	3	53	3	94	2	86	4	64	5

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 6.11**

**Frequency of personal contact with closest friend by marital status and gender, population aged 15 and over not living with closest friend, Canada, 1990**

Gender and frequency of contact	Marital status															
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Married		Common law		Divorced		Separated		Widowed		Never married		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>Both genders</b>																
Total	19,062	100	10,418	100	1,475	100	763	100	433	100	949	100	4,934	100	89	100
Daily	3,688	19	1,162	11	242	16	130	17	55	13	147	15	1,932	39	—	—
At least once a week	7,457	39	4,113	39	566	38	374	49	213	49	446	47	1,712	35	34	38
At least once a month	4,026	21	2,628	25	314	21	154	20	84	19	170	18	664	13	—	—
Less than once a month	3,182	17	2,049	20	320	22	77	10	66	15	144	15	517	10	—	—
Not within past 12 months	557	3	363	3	31	2	25	3	—	—	27	3	94	2	—	—
Not stated	151	1	102	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>																
Total	9,288	100	5,138	100	739	100	267	100	181	100	184	100	2,731	100	49	100
Daily	1,901	20	648	13	119	16	50	19	—	—	36	20	1,026	38	—	—
At least once a week	3,591	39	1,943	38	287	39	136	51	108	60	81	44	1,018	37	—	—
At least once a month	1,887	20	1,252	24	139	19	46	17	37	20	38	21	368	13	—	—
Less than once a month	1,557	17	1,049	20	180	24	27	10	—	—	—	—	260	10	—	—
Not within past 12 months	255	3	172	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	2	—	—
Not stated	96	1	74	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>																
Total	9,774	100	5,280	100	737	100	496	100	253	100	765	100	2,203	100	41	100
Daily	1,788	18	514	10	123	17	80	16	41	16	111	15	906	41	—	—
At least once a week	3,866	40	2,170	41	279	38	237	48	105	42	366	48	694	32	—	—
At least once a month	2,138	22	1,376	26	174	24	108	22	47	19	132	17	297	13	—	—
Less than once a month	1,625	17	1,000	19	140	19	50	10	52	21	123	16	257	12	—	—
Not within past 12 months	302	3	191	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	3	44	2	—	—
Not stated	55	1	28	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 77,000 who live with their closest friend.

**TABLE 6.12**

**Frequency of contact with closest friend by letter or phone, by marital status and gender, population aged 15 and over not living with closest friend, Canada, 1990**

Gender and frequency of contact	Marital status															
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Married		Common law		Divorced		Separated		Widowed		Never married		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)																
<b>Both genders</b>																
Total	19,062	100	10,418	100	1,475	100	763	100	433	100	949	100	4,934	100	89	100
Daily	3,192	17	894	9	157	11	165	22	88	20	214	23	1,656	34	—	—
At least once a week	7,925	42	4,223	41	616	42	382	50	199	46	433	46	2,043	41	29	32
At least once a month	4,218	22	2,829	27	337	23	119	16	86	20	142	15	694	14	—	—
Less than once a month	2,464	13	1,668	16	262	18	71	9	40	9	88	9	321	7	—	—
Not within past 12 months	1,109	6	700	7	100	7	22	3	—	—	57	6	205	4	—	—
Not stated	153	1	104	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>																
Total	9,288	100	5,138	100	739	100	267	100	181	100	184	100	2,731	100	49	100
Daily	1,173	13	258	5	73	10	38	14	—	—	33	18	747	27	—	—
At least once a week	3,536	38	1,728	34	276	37	131	49	101	56	72	39	1,213	44	—	—
At least once a month	2,224	24	1,509	29	186	25	49	18	37	20	35	19	402	15	—	—
Less than once a month	1,480	16	1,039	20	145	20	34	13	—	—	24	13	213	8	—	—
Not within past 12 months	779	8	531	10	57	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	146	5	—	—
Not stated	96	1	73	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>																
Total	9,774	100	5,280	100	737	100	496	100	253	100	765	100	2,203	100	41	100
Daily	2,020	21	635	12	84	11	127	25	69	27	181	24	909	41	—	—
At least once a week	4,388	45	2,496	47	340	46	251	51	98	39	361	47	830	38	—	—
At least once a month	1,994	20	1,321	25	151	20	71	14	49	19	108	14	292	13	—	—
Less than once a month	984	10	629	12	117	16	37	7	25	10	64	8	108	5	—	—
Not within past 12 months	331	3	169	3	43	6	—	—	—	—	40	5	59	3	—	—
Not stated	57	1	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

<sup>1</sup> Excludes 77,000 who live with their closest friend.

General Social Survey, 1990

## CHAPTER 7

### OLDER CANADIANS IN FAMILIES

#### 7.1 METHODS

Although many of the topics in this chapter have been discussed earlier, it focuses solely on the family structures and dynamics of Canadians aged 65 and over. Data related to the structure and dynamics of older families are based on questions asked of all respondents, with most of the analyses limited to those aged 65 and over, and a select few including those aged 45-64 as well. In this way, a glimpse is offered of life for older Canadians from two generations.

Until 1985, when the first General Social Survey (GSS) was conducted, no Canada-wide data existed on the family and social aspects of aging, except for what could be gleaned from the census, vital statistics and other existing data sources designed for other purposes. The 1990 GSS, with its focus on family and friends, enabled a glimpse into the lives and experiences of older Canadians in families.

Items related to family and household type and living arrangements were derived from answers to questions in Sections A, C, H and J of the GSS 5-2 Questionnaire.

Items related to marital status were found in Section H. For this analysis, the question on legal marital status (H3) was combined with the question on currently living common law (J2), unless otherwise indicated. Separation was determined from questions about whether the respondent was living with the spouse (H5) or was separated (H6). Widowhood or divorce was determined by responses to questions about the end of the last marriage (H22, H33, J12 and J17).

Section C contains questions related to children and grandchildren. Detailed data were collected on natural children (i.e. those the respondent had given birth to or fathered) (C4), adopted children (C3), and step-children (C2) including their names, birth dates, gender and whether the child lived in the household.

Respondents were asked whether they had grandchildren, and if so, the total number of grandchildren (C6).

Respondents were asked questions concerning their siblings (Section B) including how many siblings the respondent had and if they were still alive at the time of the survey. Respondents were also asked about contacts with siblings.

Questions on the 1990 GSS relating to contact with and distance from children relied on the concept of the "reference child." This is the child with whom the respondent reported having the most contact. Only adult children who did not live with the respondent were eligible to be selected as the reference child. In addition, only people who had children (i.e. natural, step, adopted) alive at the time of the survey were asked to select a reference child and answered questions about this child and their relationship with them. Satisfaction with contact was measured by response to C37, asking whether the respondent saw the reference child less, more often or just the right amount.

For analyses involving middle-aged children (aged 45-64) and their parents, questions related to distance from (A8 and A31) and contacts with parents (A9 and A32) were used.

#### 7.2 RESULTS

##### 7.2.1 Family Structures

###### *Living arrangements*

In 1990, Canadians aged 65 and over, on average, lived in small households consisting of one or two people (Text Table 7.1). Notable differences in household type were apparent by gender. More women (42%) reported living alone than men (16%).

### TEXT TABLE 7.1

Living arrangements by age group and gender, population aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990

Age group and gender	Living arrangements									
	Total		Alone		Couple only		Couple with children		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>65 +</b>										
Both genders	2,790	100	854	31	1,349	48	209	7	379	14
Men	1,193	100	186	16	763	64	142	12	102	9
Women	1,597	100	667	42	585	37	67	4	277	17
<b>80 +</b>										
Both genders	430	100	206	48	153	36	--	--	63	15
Men	178	100	37	21	121	68	--	--	--	--
Women	252	100	169	67	32	13	--	--	49	19

General Social Survey, 1990

Alternatively, more men (64%) than women (37%) lived with a spouse. This gender difference increased among Canadians aged 80 and over, where over two-thirds of women (67%) lived alone, while over two-thirds of men (68%) lived with a spouse. To a large degree, this reflects women's longer life expectancy and men's greater likelihood of dying in an intact union. To some extent, this may also be a function of the spouse living in an institution. It should be noted, however, that living alone was an experience not unique to women, in that 21% of men aged 80 and over also reported living alone.

#### Legal marital status

Legal marital status was consistent with the family living arrangements of Canadians aged 65 and over. Widowhood is a more common experience for women, and one associated with reduced income, trauma of not only the death of a spouse, but often the long-term caregiving that precedes the death, and greater likelihood of living alone (Connidis, 1989; Harrison, 1981; McDaniel, 1992; Statistics Canada, 1991; Stone, 1988). Among women aged 65 and over, 43% were married and 43% were widowed (Figure 7.1). The vast majority of men in this age group (78%) were married (including common law) and only 11% widowed.

#### Brothers and sisters

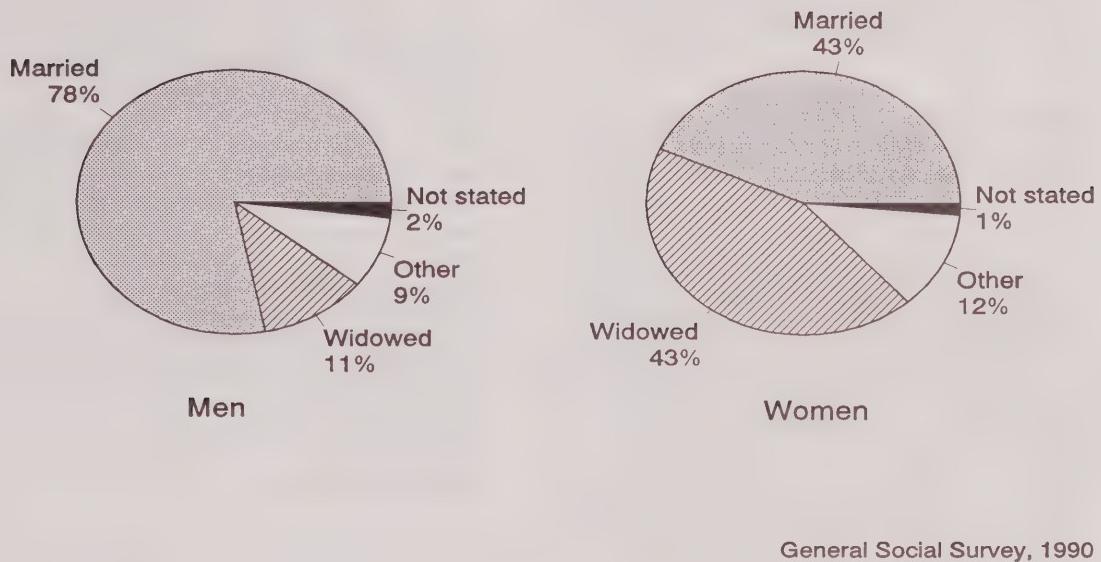
Many older Canadians reported that they came from families with many brothers and sisters (Text Table 7.2). In fact, over half (53%) reported five or more siblings (i.e. alive or deceased). Another 9% had one sibling and 33% reported two to four siblings. Only 5% said that they had no siblings.

#### Children — natural, adopted and step-children

Most older Canadians (82%) reported that they had had their own children (Table 7.1). About two-thirds (60%) reported one to four children, while 22% said they had had five or more children of their own. While more men (64%) than women (57%) reported one to four children, more women (24%) than men (19%) said they had had five or more.

Approximately 4% of older Canadians reported having ever raised step-children. In addition, about 5% of older Canadians had adopted children. Of these, about 4% had adopted one child and another 2% had adopted two or more children. Differences by gender were small.

**FIGURE 7.1**  
Marital status by gender, population aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990



**TEXT TABLE 7.2**  
Total number of brothers and sisters (living and deceased) by gender, population aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990

Number of brothers and sisters	Gender					
	Both genders		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
Total	2,790	100	1,193	100	1,597	100
None	131	5	52	4	79	5
One	240	9	91	8	149	9
Two-four	919	33	424	36	495	31
Five or more	1,492	53	621	52	872	55
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

### *Grandchildren*

In 1990, most older Canadians (76%) had grandchildren (Text Table 7.3). About 29% of Canadians had two to four grandchildren and an additional 25% had five to nine. Another 10% had ten to fourteen grandchildren and 8% had fifteen or more. Only 5% reported one grandchild. More men (25%) than women (22%) said that they did not have grandchildren. Approximately equal proportions of men and women reported one to nine grandchildren, while more women (20%) than men (14%) reported ten or more grandchildren.

### 7.2.2 Family Dynamics

#### *Contacts and distance*

In 1990, older Canadians, on average, tended to live close to the child with whom they had the most contact. Approximately half of all older Canadians lived within 10 km of the reference child (Text Table 7.4). Overall, as distance from the reference child

increased, the frequency of contact diminished. However, few Canadians reported that they did not have any contact with the reference child. Among those living within 10 km, 26% had contact with their child on a daily basis and 60% had contact at least once a week (Table 7.2). Another 22% of older Canadians lived within 11-50 km and tended more towards weekly (53%) and monthly visits (36%).

**TEXT TABLE 7.3**

Number of grandchildren by gender, population aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990

Number of grandchildren	Gender					
	Both genders		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
<b>Total</b>	2,790	100	1,193	100	1,597	100
None	648	23	303	25	345	22
One	132	5	63	5	68	4
Two-four	795	29	378	32	417	26
Five-nine	706	25	276	23	430	27
Ten-fourteen	271	10	96	8	175	11
Fifteen or more	211	8	69	6	142	9
Not stated	26	1	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

Among older Canadians living 51-100 km or more away, monthly and visits less frequent than monthly predominated. For those living more than 100 km away (20%), 73% reported contacts less often than once a month (including not within past 12 months).

Older women, regardless of distance, tended to have more contact with their reference child than did men. As well, fewer women than men reported contact less than once a month or no contact at all.

The majority of both men (73%) and women (69%) aged 65 and over thought that the amount of contact they had with their child was just right (Table 7.3). Men, on average, were slightly happier than women with the frequency of contact. About one-in-five married men and three-in-ten married women said they would like to have more contact with their reference child. More widowed men (30%) than widowed women (27%) would like more contact than they had. Very few expressed concern about having too much contact with their reference child.

#### *Contact with siblings*

Most older Canadians (59%) with living siblings saw their siblings less than once a month or not within the past 12 months. However, 17% reported weekly contact and 18% monthly contact (Table 7.4). Only 5% had daily visits.

**TEXT TABLE 7.4**

Distance from reference child by gender, population aged 65 and over not living with reference child, Canada, 1990

Gender	Distance from reference child											
	Total		Within 10 km		11- 50 km		51- 100 km		Over 100 km		Do not know/ Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>	2,312	100	1,104	48	507	22	181	8	469	20	50	2
Men	997	100	466	47	207	21	77	8	230	23	--	--
Women	1,314	100	638	49	300	23	105	8	239	18	32	2

General Social Survey, 1990

Overall, both older men and women maintained the same frequency of contact with their siblings. However, more women (43%) than men (36%) reported contacts less frequent than once a month. As well, more men (22%) than women (15%) reported no contact within the past 12 months.

Overall, those who were unmarried\* reported the most contact with their siblings. In fact, 10% had daily contact and another 22% saw their siblings at least once a week. Unmarried women were the most frequent visitors of their siblings: over 25% saw their siblings at least once a week. Married men and women maintained about the same amount of contact with their siblings.

Women reported more contact with siblings by letter or phone than did men. In fact, 39% of women maintained daily or weekly contact with their brothers or sisters by phone or mail, compared with 25% of men (Text Table 7.5). Men (47%) were more likely than women (32%) to report letter or phone contact less often than once a month or not within the past 12 months.

\* Includes never married, separated and divorced.

#### *Distance and contact with parents*

In light of the dramatic changes in the probabilities of having a surviving parent well into old age, it seems more appropriate to examine contacts that middle-aged Canadians (aged 45-64) had with their parents. In 1990, approximately 50% of people aged 45-64 reported that at least one of their parents was living (data not shown).

The majority (57%) of middle-aged Canadians whose mothers were alive at the time of the survey maintained contact with their mothers at least once a month (Table 7.5). However, not surprisingly, contact declined as distance from mothers increased. For example, 80% of people who lived within 10 km of their mothers had weekly or daily visits, whereas only 50% of people who lived 11-50 km saw their mothers on a daily or weekly basis.

A gender difference was apparent in contact with mothers among middle-aged children. Women tended to have more daily or weekly visits than men, if they lived within 50 km. Men, although frequent weekly visitors of their mothers, tended more toward monthly visits. With increased distance from mothers, women maintained more contacts than men.

**TEXT TABLE 7.5**

Frequency of contact with sibling(s) by letter or phone by gender, population aged 65 and over not living with sibling(s), Canada, 1990

Gender	Frequency of contact by letter or phone with sibling													
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>	2,345	100	163	7	613	26	655	28	715	30	187	8	--	--
Men	1,020	100	30	3	226	22	279	27	373	37	107	10	--	--
Women	1,325	100	133	10	387	29	376	28	342	26	81	6	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

For fathers, the pattern was different. Fewer Canadians had living fathers, a result of men's lower life expectancies. Only fathers who lived very close to middle-aged children saw them once a week or once a month. Contacts with fathers were generally less than with mothers. The proportion with no contact was very small.

### ***Emotional supports***

In 1990, most Canadians aged 65 and over reported their spouse or partner and relative (parent excluded) to be their main sources of emotional support (Table 7.6). Overall, women aged 65 and over tended to report more potential sources of support when a bit down or depressed than did men. A large portion of married or common-law people reported that they would turn to their spouse or partner for support. However, married or common-law men (45%) were more likely to do so than were women (36%). Married or common-law women (31%) were more likely to seek support from one of their children or other relatives than men (19%). As well, more married or common-law women (12%) said they would seek out a friend than did men (5%). However, more men (8%) than women (5%) reported they would not seek support from anyone.

When upset with a spouse or partner, most older Canadians (27%) would turn to a relative (other than parent) for support (Table 7.7). However, many older Canadians (30%) reported that they did not know who they would turn to for support and 21% said they would not seek support. More women (29%) than men (25%) would turn to a relative (parent excluded) for support in these circumstances. A larger proportion of men (23%) than women (19%) reported they would not talk to anyone when upset. A slightly higher proportion of women (7%) said they would seek support from a friend than did men (5%). Approximately 14% of both men and women would seek help from a professional when upset with their spouse or partner.

## **7.3 DISCUSSION**

### ***Family structure***

The family life of older Canadians is of strong interest in an aging Canada for several reasons. However, much is either not known or misunderstood. Families often provide important supports for Canadians, and

this is no less true for seniors. As mentioned in the previous chapter, connections with social networks, including family ties, are important to well-being.

A central and recurrent theme in the findings in this chapter is the different ways in which older women and men are positioned in families (Dulude, 1987; McDaniel, 1989). For example, over two-thirds of women over the age of 80 lived alone, while over two-thirds of men of the same age lived in a conjugal union. It is not that men or women choose to experience family differently after age 80, but rather that men's shorter life expectancy and the fact that they tend, on average, to marry women slightly younger than they are, means that family life for men late in life differs sharply from family life for women. Similarly, it was found that most men over age 65 were married, including common law, while at age 65, only half of women were married, with the percentage declining with the years. These differences are also, to a lesser degree, a function of differential remarriage rates — men are more likely to remarry than women.

The implications of these differences are large and important. Women who are without spouses late in life and who have had spouses for most of their lives, will have experienced one of life's most traumatic events, the death of a spouse. This means that they are not only deprived of their life's companion, but more often than not (given the common causes of death today), they had nursed the spouse through his last days, with great stress and distress. Living alone after this trauma can prove challenging for both the widow and other family members (McDaniel, 1993). Population aging and the growing number of widows who live alone account, in part, for the dramatic increases in the rate of solo living over recent decades (Harrison, 1981).

Many older Canadians come from families with large numbers of siblings which means that they have experienced family in ways different than today, or when these Canadians raised their own families (Gee, 1990). Family size has declined considerably since these older people grew up in families with, on average, five or more siblings. Many contemporary seniors report that their sisters are still living, while many of their brothers are not.

The fact of having not only siblings, but also adult children, means that family for today's seniors is complex and multi-generational. Gee (1990) reveals the extent to which the experience of family has changed today. Almost three-quarters report having

grandchildren as well. This means that family contacts are potentially, at least, multiple and varied. As Gee (1990) points out, people today can expect to be alive with more generations of their families still alive than ever before. Canadians over the age of 65 are in touch with both the past — their large families of origin — and the future, their children's children who, on average, will be part of much smaller families (Statistics Canada, 1990).

### **Family dynamics**

How do changing family structures affect family dynamics? It has been seen, with 1990 GSS data, that family complexity among today's seniors has meant that family contacts are maintained, with relatives often living in close proximity, and frequent visits are the norm. The frequency of visits of older parents with their reference child is high indeed, with approximately 57% visiting at least once a week, and another 21% having monthly contacts. These findings are consistent with earlier research (Connidis, 1989; McDaniel & McKinnon, 1993; Statistics Canada, 1991), including the 1985 General Social Survey (Stone, 1988), the first national survey to ask these kinds of questions. This finding contrasts vividly with the common image of adult children abandoning their parents and grandparents.

Most seniors are very happy with the amount of contact they have with their reference child, but men, on average, tend to be happier with the contacts than women. Not surprisingly, it is women who maintain the most contact with siblings as well as other family members. This is consistent with findings of smaller scale studies done by Connidis (1989). However, marital status affects contacts with siblings in ways that challenge interpretation. Perhaps future research will shed more light on this.

Seniors with mothers still alive (a growing proportion as the research of Gee (1990) reveals) tend to have regular contact with their mothers. Middle-aged Canadians tend to have contact with their mothers about once a month, unless they live in close proximity in which case they see each other more often.

Fathers tend to have less contact, supporting previous research which suggests that fathers tend to be more distant and isolated from family interactions than mothers (McDaniel, 1993).

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**TABLE 7.1**  
**Number of natural, step-, and adopted children by gender, population  
aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990**

Number of children	Gender					
	Both genders		Men		Women	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)						
<b>Number of natural children</b>						
Total	2,790	100	1,193	100	1,597	100
None	505	18	203	17	302	19
One	327	12	164	14	164	10
Two	565	20	256	21	309	19
Three	409	15	175	15	234	15
Four	374	13	164	14	210	13
Five or more	608	22	233	19	375	24
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Number of step-children</b>						
Total	2,790	100	1,193	100	1,597	100
None	2,685	96	1,133	95	1,552	97
One	51	2	29	2	--	--
Two	24	1	--	--	--	--
Three or more	31	1	--	--	--	--
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Number of adopted children</b>						
Total	2,790	100	1,193	100	1,597	100
None	2,640	95	1,117	94	1,523	95
One	103	4	46	4	57	4
Two or more	47	2	30	3	--	--
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

TABLE 7.2

Frequency of personal contact with reference child by gender and distance, population aged 65 and over not living with reference child, Canada, 1990

Gender and distance from reference child	Frequency of contact with reference child											
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month/ Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
	(Numbers in thousands)											
<b>Both genders</b>												
Total	2,312	100	310	13	1,015	44	492	21	458	20	36	2
10 km or less	1,104	100	282	26	667	60	115	10	38	3	—	—
11-50 km	507	100	24	5	270	53	181	36	32	6	—	—
51-100 km	181	100	—	—	49	27	89	49	39	22	—	—
Over 100 km	469	100	—	—	—	—	102	22	344	73	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	50	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	58
<b>Men</b>												
Total	997	100	121	12	435	44	206	21	220	22	—	—
10 km or less	466	100	109	23	297	64	47	10	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	207	100	—	—	109	52	75	36	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	77	100	—	—	—	—	42	55	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	230	100	—	—	—	—	42	18	176	76	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
Total	1,314	100	189	14	580	44	286	22	238	18	—	—
10 km or less	638	100	173	27	371	58	68	11	26	4	—	—
11-50 km	300	100	—	—	162	54	106	35	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	105	100	—	—	33	31	47	45	23	22	—	—
Over 100 km	239	100	—	—	—	—	60	25	167	70	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	32	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 7.3**

**Satisfaction with frequency of personal contact with reference child by gender and marital status, population aged 65 and over not living with reference child, Canada, 1990**

Gender and marital status	Satisfaction with frequency of contact with reference child									
	Total		Less often than would like		About the right amount		More often than would like		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	2,312	100	622	27	1,630	71	30	1	30	1
Married	1,423	100	361	25	1,037	73	--	--	--	--
Widowed	721	100	197	27	497	69	--	--	--	--
Unmarried	135	100	53	39	76	57	--	--	--	--
Not stated	32	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Men</b>										
Total	997	100	244	24	729	73	--	--	--	--
Married	806	100	180	22	612	76	--	--	--	--
Widowed	120	100	36	30	77	65	--	--	--	--
Unmarried	56	100	--	--	30	54	--	--	--	--
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Women</b>										
Total	1,314	100	378	29	901	69	--	--	--	--
Married	617	100	181	29	424	69	--	--	--	--
Widowed	602	100	160	27	420	70	--	--	--	--
Unmarried	79	100	31	39	46	58	--	--	--	--
Not stated	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 7.4**  
**Frequency of personal contacts with siblings by gender and marital status, population aged 65 and over not living with sibling, Canada, 1990**

Gender and marital status	Frequency of contact with siblings													
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	2,345	100	126	5	409	17	424	18	946	40	430	18	—	—
Married	1,382	100	62	5	233	17	277	20	548	40	256	19	—	—
Widowed	687	100	39	6	114	17	112	16	290	42	128	19	—	—
Unmarried	242	100	23	10	53	22	33	14	93	38	38	16	—	—
Not stated	35	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>														
Total	1,020	100	50	5	173	17	193	19	371	36	227	22	—	—
Married	800	100	36	4	142	18	156	19	282	35	182	23	—	—
Widowed	112	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	44	22	20	—	—
Unmarried	91	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	36	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>														
Total	1,325	100	76	6	236	18	231	17	574	43	203	15	—	—
Married	582	100	27	5	91	16	121	21	267	46	75	13	—	—
Widowed	575	100	35	6	101	18	91	16	241	42	106	19	—	—
Unmarried	151	100	—	—	37	25	—	—	60	40	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 7.5**

Frequency of personal contact with mother and father by distance living from parent(s) and gender, population aged 45-64 not living with parent(s), Canada, 1990

Distance living from parent(s) and gender	Frequency of contact with parent													
	Total		Daily		At least once a week		At least once a month		Less than once a month		Not within past 12 months		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)														
<b>Distance from mother</b>														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	2,076	100	104	5	667	32	423	20	618	30	256	12	—	—
10 km or less	638	100	90	14	422	66	97	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	376	100	—	—	190	50	146	39	30	8	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	134	100	—	—	37	28	74	55	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	909	100	—	—	—	—	106	12	547	60	235	26	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>														
Total	997	100	37	4	284	29	222	22	301	30	151	15	—	—
10 km or less	300	100	28	9	193	64	63	21	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	170	100	—	—	74	43	73	43	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	60	100	—	—	—	—	38	63	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	454	100	—	—	—	—	48	11	258	57	140	31	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>														
Total	1,079	100	68	6	383	35	201	19	318	29	104	10	—	—
10 km or less	338	100	62	18	229	68	34	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	206	100	—	—	116	56	73	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	74	100	—	—	29	39	36	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	455	100	—	—	—	—	58	13	289	63	95	21	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Distance from father</b>														
<b>Both genders</b>														
Total	951	100	52	5	240	25	216	23	304	32	106	11	34	4
10 km or less	278	100	41	15	178	64	42	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	176	100	—	—	49	28	87	49	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	65	100	—	—	—	—	43	66	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	389	100	—	—	—	—	44	11	252	65	88	23	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	43	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	77
<b>Men</b>														
Total	481	100	27	6	116	24	99	21	161	34	66	14	—	—
10 km or less	140	100	—	—	91	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	89	100	—	—	—	—	39	44	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	206	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	133	64	54	26	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>														
Total	470	100	26	5	124	26	117	25	143	30	40	9	—	—
10 km or less	138	100	26	19	88	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-50 km	88	100	—	—	27	30	48	55	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-100 km	41	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 100 km	182	100	—	—	—	—	25	14	119	65	34	19	—	—
Do not know/Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

**TABLE 7.6**  
**Who people would turn to when a bit down or depressed by gender and marital status, population aged 65 and over, Canada, 1990**

Gender and who they turn to when feeling depressed	Marital status									
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Married/ Common law		Widowed		Unmarried		Not stated	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)										
<b>Both genders</b>										
Total	2,790	100	1,651	100	814	100	284	100	42	100
Spouse/Partner	686	25	681	41	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>2</sup>	953	34	393	24	447	55	100	35	—	—
Friend <sup>3</sup>	351	13	129	8	146	18	73	26	—	—
Professional <sup>4</sup>	307	11	171	10	90	11	40	14	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	206	7	112	7	61	7	31	11	—	—
Do not know	232	8	148	9	52	6	31	11	—	—
Not stated	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>										
Total	1,193	100	947	100	131	100	96	100	—	—
Spouse/Partner	428	36	425	45	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>2</sup>	269	23	176	19	61	47	27	28	—	—
Friend <sup>3</sup>	114	10	48	5	31	24	33	34	—	—
Professional <sup>4</sup>	133	11	102	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	98	8	74	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do not know	130	11	110	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>										
Total	1,597	100	704	100	683	100	188	100	—	—
Spouse/Partner	258	16	256	36	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>2</sup>	684	43	217	31	386	57	73	39	—	—
Friend <sup>3</sup>	237	15	81	12	115	17	40	21	—	—
Professional <sup>4</sup>	174	11	69	10	72	11	31	16	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	108	7	38	5	52	8	—	—	—	—
Do not know	102	6	38	5	43	6	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

1 Includes population who did not state their marital status.

2 Relative includes son, daughter, sibling, other relatives and in-laws.

3 Friend includes neighbour and someone you work with.

4 Professional includes counsellors, doctors, church, God or clergy.

TABLE 7.7

Who people would turn to when upset with spouse or partner<sup>1</sup> by gender and marital status, population aged 65 and over, Canada 1990

Gender and who they turn to first when upset with partner	Marital status											
	Total <sup>2</sup>		Married/ Common law		Widowed		Unmarried		Not stated			
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
(Numbers in thousands)												
<b>Both genders</b>												
Total	2,790	100	1,651	100	814	100	284	100	42	100		
Parent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>3</sup>	760	27	513	31	195	24	41	15	—	—	—	—
Friend <sup>4</sup>	178	6	100	6	45	6	33	12	—	—	—	—
Professional <sup>5</sup>	369	13	231	14	108	13	27	10	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	579	21	340	21	174	21	60	21	—	—	—	—
Do not know	832	30	438	27	273	34	112	39	—	—	—	—
Not stated	40	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Men</b>												
Total	1,193	100	947	100	131	100	96	100	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>3</sup>	294	25	249	26	24	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Friend <sup>4</sup>	62	5	44	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional <sup>5</sup>	150	13	125	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	273	23	230	24	26	20	—	—	—	—	—	—
Do not know	380	32	281	30	51	39	43	45	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Women</b>												
Total	1,597	100	704	100	683	100	188	100	—	—	—	—
Parent	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relative <sup>3</sup>	466	29	264	37	172	25	25	13	—	—	—	—
Friend <sup>4</sup>	116	7	56	8	38	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Professional <sup>5</sup>	218	14	106	15	90	13	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No one	305	19	110	16	149	22	45	24	—	—	—	—
Do not know	452	28	157	22	222	33	69	36	—	—	—	—
Not stated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

General Social Survey, 1990

<sup>1</sup> Phrased hypothetically for unmarried population.

<sup>2</sup> Includes population who did not state their marital status.

<sup>3</sup> Relative includes son, daughter, sibling, other relatives and in-laws.

<sup>4</sup> Friend includes neighbour and someone you work with.

<sup>5</sup> Professional includes counsellors, doctors, church, God or clergy.

## APPENDIX I

### SAMPLE DESIGN AND ESTIMATION PROCEDURES

#### POPULATION

The target population of the 1990 General Social Survey includes all people 15 years and over living in Canada, with the following exceptions:

1. full-time residents of institutions;
2. residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Since random digit dialling techniques were used to select households, households (and thus people living in households) that did not have telephones at the time of the survey were excluded from the surveyed population. These households account for less than 2% of the total population.

The survey estimates have been adjusted (weighted) to represent the entire target population, including persons without telephones and other exclusions.

#### SAMPLE DESIGN AND SELECTION METHODS

The 1990 General Social Survey employed two different Random Digit Dialling (RDD) sampling techniques. For Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, most of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia, the Elimination of Non-working Banks method was used; for the remaining provinces, the Waksberg method was used\*. Both of these methods are described below.

Note that a "bank" of telephone numbers is a group of 100 possible numbers that share the same three-digit area code, three-digit prefix and first two digits of the final part of the telephone number.

\* Waksberg, J. 1980. "Sampling Methods for Random Digit Dialling". *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 73: 40-46.

#### Elimination of Non-working Banks RDD Design

The General Social Survey used the Elimination of Non-working Banks (ENWB) design to sample in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, most of Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia.

ENWB is a form of Random Digit Dialling in which an attempt is made to identify all "working banks" for an area, i.e. to identify all banks with at least one household. Working banks were identified using telephone company lists and all possible 10-digit telephone numbers were generated for these banks. A systematic sample of telephone numbers was then generated for each stratum and an attempt was made to conduct a GSS interview with one randomly selected person from each household reached.

#### Waksberg RDD Design

The GSS used the Waksberg Random Digit Dialling (RDD) design to sample in Prince Edward Island, part of Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The Waksberg method employs a two-stage design which increases the likelihood of contacting households over a "pure" RDD design. The following describes the procedure used for the GSS in the above provinces.

For each stratum within each of these provinces, an up-to-date list of all telephone area code and prefix number combinations was obtained. Within each identified area code-prefix combination, all possible combinations of the next two digits were added to form the 100 possible banks. These banks formed the first stage sampling units (i.e. the Primary Sampling Units — PSUs).

Within each stratum, random selections were made of these banks and then the final two digits were generated at random. This number (called a "Primary" number) was called to determine whether or not it reached a household. If it did not reach a household

(i.e. the number was not in service or was a business, institution, etc.), the bank was dropped from further consideration. If it did reach a household, additional numbers referred to as "Secondary" numbers were generated within the same bank (i.e. numbers with the same first eight digits as the "Primary" number). These numbers were also called to determine whether or not they reached a household.

Secondary numbers were generated on a continuing basis until:

- (a) five additional households were reached in each retained bank; or
- (b) the bank was exhausted (i.e. all 100 numbers in the bank were used); or
- (c) the data collection was ended.

An attempt was made to conduct an interview with a randomly selected respondent in all "Primary" and "Secondary" households reached.

#### Supplementary Sample of the Elderly

In addition to the two random digit dialling samples, this cycle of the GSS included a supplementary sample drawn from households previously in the Labour Force Survey. For this supplementary sample, only people aged 65 and over were eligible and an interview was attempted with a respondent selected at random from among the eligible people in each of the households contacted.

#### Stratification

In order to carry out sampling, each of the ten provinces was divided into strata or geographic areas. Generally, for each province one stratum represented the Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs) of the province and the other the non-CMA areas. There were a number of exceptions to this general rule:

- Prince Edward Island has no CMA and so did not have a CMA stratum
- Montreal and Toronto were each separate strata
- The sample in Ontario was large enough to divide the province into four CMA strata and four non-CMA strata
- Since Saskatchewan was sampled from two regional offices it had to be divided into four strata (two CMA and two non-CMA).

The area code and prefix combinations that corresponded to the strata were determined and used to select the appropriate samples in each stratum. Since area code-prefix boundaries did not always correspond exactly to the intended stratum boundaries, small biases may have been introduced at this stage.

A target sample size of approximately 18,300 households was chosen as being large enough to allow extensive analysis at the national level and limited analysis at a provincial level. It was allocated to provinces in proportion to the square root of their populations and to the strata within provinces in proportion to their populations.

#### WEIGHTING AND ESTIMATION

For both the Waksberg design and the Elimination of Non-working Banks design, each household within a stratum has an equal probability of selection. For the Waksberg households, the initial weight is set to a constant (1.0) for all records. For ENWB households the initial weight is equal to the total number of telephone numbers in the stratum divided by the number of sampled telephone numbers in the stratum.

The initial weight is adjusted for non-response, for the number of telephone numbers a household has, and the number of people living in the household who are 15 years of age or over. The second adjustment corrects for the higher probability of households with more than one telephone number being sampled and the third adjustment converts the household weight into a "person weight".

Subsequently, these "person weights" were adjusted within strata so that the estimated population sizes for the strata would agree with census projections of the population. In the final stages of sampling, the weights were adjusted for over- or under-sampling within province-sex-age groups, again using census projections for the target population. The age groups for this adjustment were:

15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34
35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54
55-59	60-64	65-69	70+

#### Estimation

The estimate of the number of people in the population having a given set of characteristics is determined by summing the weights of all sampled people with that set of characteristics. The estimates of people presented in the tables are rounded to the nearest thousand, which not only improves readability but also provides data at an appropriate level of precision.

## APPENDIX II

### CYCLE FIVE QUESTIONNAIRES

#### **Content and Questionnaires**

The GSS 5-1 was completed for each telephone number selected in the sample. It lists all household members, collecting basic demographic information, specifically age, sex, marital status and relation to reference person. A respondent, 15 years of age or older was then randomly selected and a GSS 5-2 was completed for this person.

The GSS 5-2 questionnaire collected the following types of information from people aged 15 and over living in the ten provinces: aspects of the respondent's

relationship with parents and grandparents (Section A), and brothers and sisters (Section B); relationships with their children, their children's birth history, type of childcare provided and contact with children living outside the household (Section C); fertility intentions (Section D); relationship with friends (Section E); household help shared by people living together, and household help given and received by people not living in the household (Section F); support both physical (Section F) and emotional (Section G); marriage and common-law history (Section H and J); satisfaction measures (Section K); and background socio-economic questions for classification purposes (Section L).



CONFIDENTIAL  
when completed

**General Social Survey  
Control Form**

**Enquête sociale générale  
Formule de contrôle**

CONFIDENTIEL  
une fois rempli

1: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	2: <input type="text"/>
3: <input type="text"/>	4: <input type="text"/>	5: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
<b>TELEPHONE NUMBER LABEL</b> <b>ÉTIQUETTE NUMÉRO DE TÉLÉPHONE</b>				

Authority: Statistics Act,  
Revised Statutes of Canada,  
1985, Chapter S19.

Déclaration exigée en vertu de la  
Loi sur la statistique,  
Lois révisées du Canada,  
1985, chapitre S19.

**RECORD OF CALLS - REGISTRE DES APPELS**

10	11 Date		12 Start Début		13 Finish Fin		14 Result Résultat	15 Interviewer's Name Nom de l'intervieweur	16	Comments Remarques
	Day Jour	Month Mois	Hour Heure	Min. Min.	Hour Heure	Min. Min.				
01										
02										
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23										
24										
25										

**17. Call Coverage by Time of Day and Day of Week**  
**Appels selon l'heure et le jour**

Time Period	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.
Heure	Lun.	Mar.	Mer.	Jeu.	Ven.	Sam.
09:00 – 12:00						
12:01 – 16:00						
16:01 – 19:00						
19:01 – 21:00						

**18. Forms Control**  
**Contrôle des formules**

Form	Number of forms
Formule	Nombre de formules
GSS / ESG 5-1	<input type="checkbox"/>
GSS / ESG 5-2	<input type="checkbox"/>

**19. Interviewer Number**  
**Nº de l'intervieweur**

<input type="text"/>					
----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

**Senior Interviewer  
Only**  
**Intervieweur principal  
seulement**

**20. Final Status**  
**Etat final**

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------

<p><b>30.</b> Hello, I'm ..... from Statistics Canada. I'm calling you for a survey on family and friends. (My supervisor is working with me today and may listen to the interview to evaluate the survey.)</p>	<p>Bonjour, ici ..... de Statistique Canada. Nous vous appelons concernant une enquête sur la famille et les amis. (Mon surveillant travaille avec moi aujourd'hui. Il se peut qu'il écoute notre conversation pour évaluer l'enquête.)</p>
<p><b>31.</b> I'd like to make sure that I've dialed the right number. Is this ..... (read number)?</p> <p>Yes ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No ..... <input type="radio"/> → Dial again, if still wrong. END</p>	<p>J'aimerais m'assurer que j'ai composé le bon numéro. S'agit-il du no ..... (lire le numéro)?</p> <p>Oui ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Non ..... <input type="radio"/> → Composez de nouveau. S'il s'agit encore d'un mauvais numéro. METTEZ FIN A L'INTERVIEW.</p>
<p><b>32.</b> All information we collect in this voluntary survey will be kept confidential. Your participation is essential if the survey results are to be accurate.</p>	<p>Tous les renseignements que vous fournirez pour cette enquête volontaire resteront confidentiels. Votre participation est essentielle afin que les résultats soient précis.</p>
<p><b>33.</b> Is this the number for a business, an institution or a private home?</p> <p>Private home ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Both home and business ..... <input type="radio"/> } → Go to 36</p> <p>Business, institution or other non residence ..... <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>S'agit-il du numéro d'une entreprise, d'un établissement ou d'une maison privée?</p> <p>Maison privée ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Entreprise et maison privée ..... <input type="radio"/> } → Passez à 36</p> <p>Entreprise, établissement ou autre immeuble non résidentiel ..... <input type="radio"/></p>
<p><b>34.</b> Does anyone use this telephone number as a home phone number?</p> <p>Yes ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No ..... <input type="radio"/> → Thank respondent and END</p>	<p>Quelqu'un utilise-t-il ce numéro de téléphone comme numéro personnel?</p> <p>Oui ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Non ..... <input type="radio"/> → Remerciez le répondant et METTEZ FIN A L'INTERVIEW.</p>
<p><b>35.</b> How many persons live or stay at this address and use this number as a home phone number?</p> <p>Less than 15 ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>15 or more ..... <input type="radio"/> → Make appointment.</p>	<p>Combien de personnes vivent ou demeurent à cette adresse et utilisent ce numéro de téléphone comme numéro personnel?</p> <p>Moins de 15 ..... <input type="radio"/></p> <p>15 ou plus ..... <input type="radio"/> → Fixez un rendez-vous.</p>
<p><b>36.</b> I need to select one person from your household for an interview. Starting with the oldest, what is the name and age of each person living or staying there who has no usual place of residence elsewhere?</p>	<p>Je dois choisir une personne de votre ménage pour une interview. En commençant par la personne la plus âgée du ménage, quel est le nom et l'âge de chaque personne qui vit ou demeure à cet endroit et qui n'a pas d'autre lieu habituel de résidence.</p>
<p>(Enter names and ages in items 42 and 44.)</p> <p>(Inscrivez le nom et l'âge aux rubriques 42 et 44.)</p>	
<p><b>37. INTERVIEWER:</b> Complete items 45 through 51 for each person recorded in item 42.</p> <p>Refer to Interviewer Reference Card for instructions and codes.</p> <p>Then go to item 60.</p>	<p><b>INTERVIEWEUR:</b> Remplissez les rubriques 45 à 51 pour chaque personne inscrite à la rubrique 42.</p> <p>Pour les instructions et les codes, voir la Fiche de référence de l'intervieweur.</p> <p>Puis, passez à la rubrique 60.</p>

<p>1: [ ] - [ ] - [ ] 2: [ ]</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SELECTION GRID LABEL</b> <b>ÉTIQUETTE GRILLE DE SÉLECTION</b></p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="629 1110 666 1146">40.</th> <th data-bbox="629 1110 666 1181">41.</th> <th data-bbox="629 1110 666 1217">42.</th> <th data-bbox="978 1110 1015 1146">43.</th> <th data-bbox="978 1110 1015 1181">44.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Page</th> <th>Line</th> <th>Names of Household Members Noms des membres du ménage</th> <th>Sel. No. No de Séл.</th> <th>Age Âge</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>5</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>6</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>7</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>8</td> <td>[ ]</td> <td>/</td> <td>/</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	Page	Line	Names of Household Members Noms des membres du ménage	Sel. No. No de Séл.	Age Âge		1	[ ]	/	/		2	[ ]	/	/		3	[ ]	/	/		4	[ ]	/	/		5	[ ]	/	/		6	[ ]	/	/		7	[ ]	/	/		8	[ ]	/	/
40.	41.	42.	43.	44.																																															
Page	Line	Names of Household Members Noms des membres du ménage	Sel. No. No de Séл.	Age Âge																																															
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	8	[ ]	/	/																																															

A = Eligible Household Members      Membres admissibles du ménage

B = Selection Number      Numéro de sélection

**60. INTERVIEWER:** Enter the Page-Line Number of person giving the preceding information ....

**7**

Page-Line Number of household respondent

**INTERVIEWEUR:** Inscrivez le numéro de page-ligne de la personne qui donne les renseignements précédents ...

**7**

Numéro de page-ligne du répondant du ménage

**61.** Are there any persons away from this household attending school, visiting, travelling or in the hospital who USUALLY live there?

Yes .....  → Enter names and complete items 44 through 51.

No .....

Y a-t-il d'autres personnes qui sont absentes du ménage parce qu'elles sont aux études, en visite, en voyage ou à l'hôpital mais qui demeurent HABITUELLEMENT là?

Oui .....  → Inscrivez leur nom et remplissez les rubriques 44 à 51.

Non .....

**62.** Does anyone else live there, such as other relatives, roomers, boarders or employees?

Yes .....  → Enter names and complete items 44 through 51.

No .....

Y a-t-il d'autres personnes qui demeurent là, par exemple des personnes apparentées, des chambreurs, des pensionnaires ou des employés?

Oui .....  → Inscrivez leur nom et remplissez les rubriques 44 à 51.

Non .....

**63. INTERVIEWER:** In item 43 number the persons 15 years of age and over in order from oldest to youngest. Enter number of eligible household members...

**8**

Number of eligible household members

**INTERVIEWEUR:** À la rubrique 43, attribuez un numéro aux personnes âgées de 15 ans et plus - de la plus âgée à la plus jeune. Inscrivez le nombre de personnes admissibles du ménage ...

**8**

Nombre de personnes admissibles du ménage

**64. INTERVIEWER:** Determine the selected respondent by referring to the Selection Grid Label. In item 43 circle the selection number of the selected respondent and enter Page-Line Number ...

**9**

Page-Line Number of selected respondent

**INTERVIEWEUR:** Déterminez le répondant sélectionné en utilisant l'étiquette grille de sélection. A la rubrique 43, encerlez le numéro de sélection du répondant sélectionné et inscrivez le numéro de page-ligne ...

**9**

Numéro de page-ligne du répondant sélectionné

**65.** The person I am to interview is ..... (read name). (Is he/she there?)

Yes .....  → Go to Form GSS 5-2 and begin interview.

No .....  → Set up appointment and enter details in item 16.

La personne que je vais interviewer est ..... (lisez le nom). (Est-il/elle là?)

Oui .....  → Passez à la formule ESG 5-2 et commencez l'interview.

Non .....  → Fixez un rendez-vous et inscrivez les détails à la rubrique 16.

45.	46.	47.	48.	Page-Line Number of: Numéro de page-ligne de:
Sex Sexe M F	What is . . . 's marital status? Quel est l'état matrimonial de . . . ? M W/V Sep. Single Div. Cel.	Family Identifier Code-famille	What is . . . 's relationship to . . . (Head of Family)? Quel est le lien de . . . avec . . . (chef de famille)?	49. Spouse / Partner Conjoint / partenaire 1 <input type="text"/> 2 <input type="text"/> 199 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 299 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 399 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
				50. Mother Mère 4 <input type="text"/> 5 <input type="text"/> 499 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 599 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 699 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
				51. Father Père 1 <input type="text"/> 2 <input type="text"/> 199 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 299 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 399 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
				1 <input type="text"/> 2 <input type="text"/> 199 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 299 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 399 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
				4 <input type="text"/> 5 <input type="text"/> 499 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 599 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 699 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
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				4 <input type="text"/> 5 <input type="text"/> 499 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 599 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 699 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o
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				4 <input type="text"/> 5 <input type="text"/> 499 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 599 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o 699 <input type="radio"/> n/a-s/o

## RECORD OF CALLS - REGISTRE DES APPELS

10	11 Date		12 Start Début		13 Finish Fin		14 Result Résultat	15 Interviewer's Name Nom de l'intervieweur	16 Comments Remarques
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Statistics  
Canada Statistique  
Canada

Interviewer's Name

1:  -  -  Telephone Number

5:  Label Identification Number

Page-Line Number

Type

GSS 5-2

Confidential when completed

Authority:  
Statistics Act,  
Revised Statutes of Canada,  
1985, Chapter S19.

## GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS

### QUESTIONNAIRE

AGES 15 YEARS AND OVER

A	SECTION A: Parents and grandparents	A8. Does she live within ...
A0. INTERVIEWER:	Repeat the introduction below if selected respondent is different from household respondent.	
	Hello, I'm ..... from Statistics Canada. I'm calling you for a survey on family and friends.	All the information we collect in this voluntary survey will be kept confidential. Your participation is essential if the survey results are to be accurate.
A1. The following questions are about your parents and grandparents.		
A2. In what country was your mother born?	Canada <input type="radio"/> → In which province or territory?	A9. During the past 12 months how often did you see your mother? Did you see her ...
	Newfoundland ..... 01 <input type="radio"/> Prince Edward Island .. 02 <input type="radio"/> Nova Scotia ..... 03 <input type="radio"/> New Brunswick ..... 04 <input type="radio"/> Quebec ..... 05 <input type="radio"/> Ontario ..... 06 <input type="radio"/> Manitoba ..... 07 <input type="radio"/> Saskatchewan ..... 08 <input type="radio"/> Alberta ..... 09 <input type="radio"/> British Columbia ..... 10 <input type="radio"/> Yukon Territory ..... 11 <input type="radio"/> Northwest Territories .. 12 <input type="radio"/>	Daily? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> At least once a week? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> At least once a month? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Less than once a month? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> Not at all? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A11
	Country outside Canada <input type="radio"/> Specify <hr/> <hr/>	A10. Did you usually see her ... At your home? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> At her usual place of residence? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> Somewhere else? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> Specify <hr/> <hr/>
A3. Is your mother still living?	Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> When did she die? <hr/> year → GO TO A22 Don't know ..... 98 <input type="radio"/>	Equally at both residences ..... 9 <input type="radio"/>
	Don't know ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A22	A11. Do you see your mother ... Less often than you would like? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> More often than you would like? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> About the right amount? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> } GO TO A13
A4. How old is your mother?	<hr/> years Don't know ..... 00 <input type="radio"/>	A12. What prevents you from seeing her more often? (Mark all that apply)
A5. Does your mother live ...	In this household? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A15 In another household? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> In an institution? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A8	Distance ..... 01 <input type="radio"/> Poor relationship with her ..... 02 <input type="radio"/> Shortage of your time ..... 03 <input type="radio"/> Shortage of her time ..... 04 <input type="radio"/> Your health problems ..... 05 <input type="radio"/> Her health problems ..... 06 <input type="radio"> Financial reasons ..... 07 <input type="radio"/> Transportation problems ..... 08 <input type="radio"/> Other family responsibilities ..... 09 <input type="radio"/> Other ..... 10 <input type="radio"/> Specify <hr/><hr/></input>
A6. Does she live alone?	Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO A8 No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/>	No particular reason ..... 11 <input type="radio"/>
A7. Does she live ...	Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> With her spouse/partner? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> With any of her children? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> With others? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/>	With others? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> With others? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>

A13. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with her? Was it ...	A22. In what country was your father born?
Daily? ..... 4○	Canada 1○ → In which province or territory?
At least once a week? ..... 5○	Newfoundland ..... 01○
At least once a month? ..... 6○	Prince Edward Island ..... 02○
Less than once a month? ..... 7○	Nova Scotia ..... 03○
Not at all? ..... 8○	New Brunswick ..... 04○
A14. INTERVIEWER: GO TO A22	
A15. During the past 12 months, what best describes your mother's MAIN activity? Was she mainly ...	
Working at a job or business? ..... 1○ → GO TO A18	<p style="text-align: center;">Country outside Canada 2○ ↓ Specify</p>
Looking for work? ..... 2○ → GO TO A17	
A student? ..... 3○	
Keeping house? ..... 4○	
Retired? ..... 5○	
Other ..... 6○	
Specify	
A16. Was she studying full-time or part-time?	
Full-time ..... 7○	
Part-time ..... 8○	
A17. Did your mother have a job or was she self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?	
Yes ..... 1○	
No ..... 2○ → GO TO A22	
A18. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did she work at a job or business?	
weeks	
A19. During those weeks, was her work mainly full-time or part-time?	
Full-time ..... 3○	
Part-time ..... 4○	
A20. Did she regularly work evening or night shifts?	
Yes ..... 5○	
No ..... 6○	
A21. Did she regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?	
Yes ..... 7○	
No ..... 8○	
A23. Is your father still living?	
Yes ..... 3○	
No ..... 4○	
When did he die?	
year	
Don't know ..... 98○	
Don't know ..... 5○ → GO TO A45	
A24. How old is your father?	
years	
Don't know ..... 00○	
A25. Does your father live in this household?	
Yes ..... 6○ → GO TO A38	
No ..... 7○	
A26. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM: Review A3.	
Is the respondent's mother still living (A3 = Yes)?	
Yes ..... 1○	
No ..... 2○ → GO TO A28	
A27. Do your mother and father live together?	
Yes ..... 3○ → GO TO A45	
No ..... 4○	
A28. Does your father live ...	
In another household? ..... 5○	
In an institution? ..... 6○ → GO TO A31	
A29. Does he live alone?	
Yes ..... 7○ → GO TO A31	
No ..... 8○	
A30. Does he live ...	
With his spouse/partner? ..... 4○	Yes ..... 5○
With any of his children? ..... 6○	No ..... 7○
With others? ..... 8○	With others? ..... 9○

## A31. Does he live within ...

- 10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ..... 1
- 50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ..... 2
- 100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ..... 3
- 200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ..... 4
- 400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ..... 5
- 1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ..... 6
- Beyond 1000 km and living in Canada or United States (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ..... 7
- Outside Canada or United States? ..... 8
- Don't know ..... 9

## A32. During the past 12 months how often did you see your father? Did you see him ...

- Daily? ..... 1
- At least once a week? ..... 2
- At least once a month? ..... 3
- Less than once a month? ..... 4
- Not at all? ..... 5  ➔ GO TO A34

## A33. Did you usually see him ...

- At your home? ..... 6
- At his usual place of residence? ..... 7
- Somewhere else? ..... 8
- ↓  
Specify
- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Equally at both residences ..... 9 

## A34. Do you see your father ...

- Less often than you would like? ..... 1
- More often than you would like? ..... 2
- About the right amount? ..... 3
- } ➔ GO TO A36

## A35. What prevents you from seeing him more often?

(Mark all that apply)

- Distance ..... 01
- Poor relationship with him ..... 02
- Shortage of your time ..... 03
- Shortage of his time ..... 04
- Your health problems ..... 05
- His health problems ..... 06
- Financial reasons ..... 07
- Transportation problems ..... 08
- Other family responsibilities ..... 09
- Other ..... 10

↓  
Specify


No particular reason ..... 11 

## A36. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with him? Was it ...

- Daily? ..... 4
- At least once a week? ..... 5
- At least once a month? ..... 6
- Less than once a month? ..... 7
- Not at all? ..... 8

## A37. INTERVIEWER:

GO TO A45

## A38. During the past 12 months, what best describes your father's MAIN activity? Was he mainly ...

- Working at a job or business? ..... 3  ➔ GO TO A41
- Looking for work? ..... 4  ➔ GO TO A40
- A student? ..... 5
- Keeping house? ..... 6
- Retired? ..... 7
- Other ..... 8

↓  
Specify


## A39. Was he studying full-time or part-time?

- Full-time ..... 7
- Part-time ..... 8

## A40. Did your father have a job or was he self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?

- Yes ..... 1
- No ..... 2  ➔ GO TO A45

## A41. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did he do any work at a job or business?

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 weeks

## A42. During those weeks, was his work mainly full-time or part-time?

- Full-time ..... 3
- Part-time ..... 4

## A43. Did he regularly work evening or night shifts?

- Yes ..... 5
- No ..... 6

## A44. Did he regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?

- Yes ..... 7
- No ..... 8

## A45. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review A5 and A25.

Does either of the respondent's mother or father live in the household (A5 = In this household or A25 = Yes)?

- Yes ..... 1  ➔ GO TO A49
- No ..... 2

A46. How old were you when you last lived with one or both your parents?  
 [ ] years

A47. What was the main reason for your move?

- Was it ...
- To get married? ..... 3○
  - To move because of a job? ..... 4○
  - To attend school? ..... 5○
  - To be independent / move into own place? ..... 6○
  - For some other reason? ..... 7○

A48. INTERVIEWER:  
 GO TO A53

A49. Have you always lived with at least one of your parents?

- Yes ..... 8○ → GO TO A53
- No ..... 9○

A50. How old were you when you last left home to live on your own?

[ ] years

A51. What was the main reason for this move?

- Was it ...
- To get married? ..... 1○
  - To move because of a job? ..... 2○
  - To attend school? ..... 3○
  - To be independent / move into own place? ..... 4○
  - For some other reason? ..... 5○

A52. When did you start living with your parents again?

19 [ ]

A53. Are any of your grandparents still living?

- Yes ... 1○ → Who?
- Mother's mother ..... 3○
  - Mother's father ..... 4○
  - Father's mother ..... 5○
  - Father's father ..... 6○
- No ... 2○ → GO TO B1

A54. Do any of them live outside this household?

- Yes ..... 7○
- No ..... 8○ → GO TO B1

A55. The next questions concern your grandparents living outside this household.

A56. During the past 12 months, how often did you see any of your grandparents? Was it ...

- Daily? ..... 1○
- At least once a week? ..... 2○
- At least once a month? ..... 3○
- Less than once a month? ..... 4○
- Not at all? ..... 5○

A57. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with any of your grandparents? Was it ...

- Daily? ..... 5○
- At least once a week? ..... 6○
- At least once a month? ..... 7○
- Less than once a month? ..... 8○
- Not at all? ..... 9○

## SECTION B: Brothers and sisters

B1. The following questions are about your brothers and sisters. Include step-, adopted and half-brothers and sisters.

B2. How many brothers and sisters did you have? Include those who may have died.

[ ]

None ..... 100○ → GO TO C1

B3. How many brothers do you have still living?

[ ] brother(s) living

None ..... 200○ → GO TO B5

B4. How many of your (living) brothers are older than you?

[ ] brother(s) older

None ..... 300○

B5. How many sisters do you have still living?

[ ] sister(s) living

None ..... 400○ → GO TO B7

B6. How many of your (living) sisters are older than you?

[ ] sister(s) older

None ..... 500○

B7. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review B3 and B5.

Does the respondent have any living brothers or sisters?

- Yes ..... 1○
- No ..... 2○ → GO TO C1

B8. Do you have any brothers or sisters living outside this household?

- Yes ..... 3○
- No ..... 4○ → GO TO C1

B9. The next questions concern your brothers and sisters living outside this household.

B10. During the past 12 months, how often did you see any of your brothers or sisters? Was it ...

- Daily? ..... 5○
- At least once a week? ..... 6○
- At least once a month? ..... 7○
- Less than once a month? ..... 8○
- Not at all? ..... 9○

B11. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with any of your brothers or sisters? Was it ...

- Daily? ..... 1○
- At least once a week? ..... 2○
- At least once a month? ..... 3○
- Less than once a month? ..... 4○
- Not at all? ..... 5○

**C SECTION C: Children**

**C1.** Now some questions about your children and grandchildren.

**C2.** Have you ever raised step-children? By step-children we mean children from a former union of a spouse or common-law partner.

Yes . . 1○ → How many?

No . . 2○

**C3.** Have you ever adopted children? (Exclude any step-children mentioned in the previous question.)

Yes . . 3○ → How many?

No . . 4○

**C4.** Have you ever (given birth to /fathered) a child of your own? (Do not count stillbirths.)

Yes . . 5○ → How many?

No . . 6○

**C5. INTERVIEWER:**

Compute total number of step-, adopted, natural children. Add entries in C2, C3, C4.

Total  
number  
of  
children

None 00○ → GO TO D1

**C6.** Do you have any grandchildren?

Yes . . 7○ → How many?

No . . 8○

**C7.** Starting with the oldest, what is the first name and age of each child you have ever raised or (given birth to / fathered). Include those who may have died.

Interviewer: Ask questions B to E for at most 22 children - the 21 oldest and the youngest.

	A.	B. In what month and year was . . . (your first (second, ...) child) born?	DATE OF BIRTH	
			Month	Year
IDENTIFICATION	CHILD I.D. #	Name	AGE	
01.			2	years 3
02.			5	years 6
03.			2	years 3
04.			5	years 6
05.			2	years 3
06.			5	years 6
07.			2	years 3
08.			5	years 6
09.			2	years 3
10.			5	years 6
11.			2	years 3
12.			5	years 6
13.			2	years 3
14.			5	years 6
15.			2	years 3
16.			5	years 6
17.			2	years 3
18.			5	years 6
19.			2	years 3
20.			5	years 6
21.			2	years 3
22.			5	years 6



## C8. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review C7, columns A and E.

Are there any children less than 15 years old living in household?

Yes ..... 1 No ..... 2  → GO TO C16

## C9. The next questions refer to your children less than 15 years old living in the household.

## C10. During the past 12 months, did any of your children receive childcare on a REGULAR basis? Exclude childcare provided by a family member living in this household.

Yes ..... 3  → How many?  childrenNo ..... 4  → GO TO C16

## C11. Did your child(ren) receive this care so that you or your spouse/partner could ...

	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>
Work at a job?	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>
Study?	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Do volunteer work?	05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>
Provide care to a family member or friend?	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Do something else?	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>

↓ Specify



## C12. During the past 12 months, did ... (your youngest child) receive childcare OUTSIDE YOUR HOUSEHOLD on a regular basis?

Yes ..... 3 No ..... 4  → GO TO C14

## C13. Did ... (your youngest child) go to ...

	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>
A workplace daycare center?	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>
Another daycare center? ..	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
A sitter or neighbour's home? ..	05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>
Grandparent's home? ..	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Another relative's home? ..	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>
Some other arrangement (outside your household)? ..	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>

↓ Specify



## C14. During the past 12 months, did ... (your youngest child) receive childcare IN YOUR HOME on a regular basis? Exclude childcare provided by a family member living in your household.

Yes ..... 5 No ..... 6  → GO TO C16

## C15. Who provided this care to ... (your youngest child)? Was it ...

	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>
The child's grandparent? ..	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>
Another relative? ..	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>
A sitter or nanny? ..	5 <input type="radio"/>	6 <input type="radio"/>
Someone else? ..	7 <input type="radio"/>	8 <input type="radio"/>

↓ Specify


## C16. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review C7, columns A and E.

Are there any children less than 15 years old living outside household?

Yes ..... 3 No ..... 4  → GO TO C24

## C17. The next questions are about your (youngest) child living outside the household.

## C18. Who does ... (this child) live with?

Child's mother/father ..... 5 A relative ..... 6 Other ..... 7 

↓ Specify


## C19. Does ... (this child) live within ...

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ... 1 50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ... 2 100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ... 3 200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ... 4 400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ... 5 1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 6 Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ... 7 Don't know ..... 8 

## C20. During the past 12 months, how often did you see ... (this child)? Was it ...

Daily? ..... 2 At least once a week? ..... 3 At least once a month? ..... 4 Less than once a month? ..... 5 Not at all? ..... 6 

## C21. Do you see ... (this child) ...

Less often than you would like? ..... 7 More often than you would like? ..... 8 About the right amount? ..... 9

C22. What prevents you from seeing ... (this child) more often?  
 (Mark all that apply)

Distance .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
Poor relationship with child .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
Shortage of your time .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
Your health problems .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Financial reasons .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
Transportation problems .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
Other family responsibilities .....	7 <input type="radio"/>
Custodial arrangements .....	8 <input type="radio"/>
Poor relationship with custodian .....	9 <input type="radio"/>
Other .....	10 <input type="radio"/>

↓  
 Specify  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

No particular reason ..... 11

C23. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with ... (this child)? Was it ...

Daily? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a week? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a month? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
Less than once a month? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Not at all? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>

C24. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:

Review C7, columns A and E.

Number of children 15 years of age and older, living outside household?

- |                   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None .....        | 1 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO D1  |
| One .....         | 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C30 |
| Two or more ..... | 3 <input type="radio"/>             |

C25. Of your children 15 years of age and older living outside your household, how many live within 100 km (60 miles or one hour by car)?

[ 4 ] child(ren)

C26. Of your children 15 years of age and older living outside your household, with whom do you have the most contact?

If necessary, use birth order, date and sex to probe.

- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| CHILD I. D. # [ 5 ]       | → GO TO C28               |
| No particular child ..... | 500 <input type="radio"/> |

C27. Of those children with whom you have the most contact, who is the oldest?

CHILD I. D. # [ 6 ]

C28. The next questions are about this child.

C29. INTERVIEWER:  
 GO TO C31

C30. The next questions are about your child, 15 years of age or older, living outside your household.

C31. Does ... ( this child) live alone?

- |           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Yes ..... | 1 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C33 |
| No .....  | 2 <input type="radio"/>             |

C32. Does ... (this child) live with ...

- |                               |                         |     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| His/her spouse/partner? ..... | 4 <input type="radio"/> | Yes |
| His/her children? .....       | 6 <input type="radio"/> | No  |
| Someone else? .....           | 8 <input type="radio"/> |     |

↓ Who?

(Mark all that apply)

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friend/roommate .....       | 1 <input type="radio"/> |
| Child's mother/father ..... | 2 <input type="radio"/> |
| Other relative .....        | 3 <input type="radio"/> |

C33. Does ... (this child) live within ...

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? .....                    | 2 <input type="radio"/> |
| 50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? .....                   | 3 <input type="radio"/> |
| 100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? .....                      | 4 <input type="radio"/> |
| 200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? .....                    | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| 400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? .....                    | 6 <input type="radio"/> |
| 1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? .....                  | 7 <input type="radio"/> |
| Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ..... | 8 <input type="radio"/> |
| Don't know .....   | 9 <input type="radio"/> |

C34. During the past 12 months, what best describes ... (this child's) MAIN activity? Was he/she mainly ...

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Working at a job or business? ..... | 1 <input type="radio"/> |
| Looking for work? .....             | 2 <input type="radio"/> |
| A student? .....                    | 3 <input type="radio"/> |
| Keeping house? .....                | 4 <input type="radio"/> |
| Other .....                         | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
- ↓  
 Specify  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

C35. During the past 12 months, how often did you see ... (this child)? Was it ...

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Daily? .....                  | 5 <input type="radio"/>             |
| At least once a week? .....   | 6 <input type="radio"/>             |
| At least once a month? .....  | 7 <input type="radio"/>             |
| Less than once a month? ..... | 8 <input type="radio"/>             |
| Not at all? .....             | 9 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO C37 |

C36. Did you usually see ... (this child) ...

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| At your home? .....                        | 1 <input type="radio"/> |
| At his/her usual place of residence? ..... | 2 <input type="radio"/> |
| Somewhere else? .....                      | 3 <input type="radio"/> |
- ↓  
 Specify  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Equally at both residences ..... | 4 <input type="radio"/> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|

C37. Do you see ... (this child) ...

- |                                       |                         |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Less often than you would like? ..... | 5 <input type="radio"/> |
| More often than you would like? ..... | 6 <input type="radio"/> |
| About the right amount? .....         | 7 <input type="radio"/> |
- } GO TO C39

C38. What prevents you from seeing . . . (this child) more often?  
 (Mark all that apply)

Distance .....	01 <input type="radio"/>
Poor relationship with child .....	02 <input type="radio"/>
Shortage of your time .....	03 <input type="radio"/>
Shortage of his/her time .....	04 <input type="radio"/>
Your health problems .....	05 <input type="radio"/>
His/her health problems .....	06 <input type="radio"/>
Financial reasons .....	07 <input type="radio"/>
Transportation problems .....	08 <input type="radio"/>
Other family responsibilities .....	09 <input type="radio"/>
Other .....	10 <input type="radio"/>

Specify  
           
           
           
 No particular reason ..... 11

C39. During the past 12 months how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with . . . (this child)? Was it ...

Daily? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a week? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a month? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
Less than once a month? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Not at all? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>

#### D SECTION D: Fertility intentions

D1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review GSS 5-1, Item 44 for respondent only.  
 Is age of respondent...  
 45 or older? .... 6  → GO TO E1  
 44 or younger? .... 7

D2. The next questions are about your intentions to have (more) children.

D3. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:  
 Review GSS 5-1, Item 49 for respondent only.  
 If respondent is living with a spouse/partner, phrase questions D4 and D5 to include spouse/partner.

D4. Have you (or your spouse/partner) had an operation that makes it impossible for you to have a/another child?  
 Yes ..... 8  → GO TO E1  
 No ..... 9

D5. Have you ever been told that you (or your partner) cannot have any(more) children?  
 Yes ..... 1  → GO TO E1  
 No ..... 2

D6. Do you intend to have a/another child sometime?  
 Yes ..... 3   
 No ..... 4   
 Don't know ..... 5  → GO TO E1

D7. What is the total number of children that you intend to have (including those you have now)?  
 child(ren)  
 Don't know ..... 98

#### SECTION E: Friends

E1. Other than your immediate family, how many people do you consider close friends?

(Exclude spouse, parents, brothers, sisters and children. Include friends, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, in-laws, etc.)

friends

None ..... 00  → GO TO F1

E2. The next few questions are about your closest friend. Your immediate family should be excluded.

E3. Is your closest friend male or female?

Male ..... 1   
 Female ..... 2

E4. Where did this friendship start?

At school .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
At work .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
At club / organization .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
At church .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
At home or in the neighbourhood .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
Through family .....	7 <input type="radio"/>
Through a friend .....	8 <input type="radio"/>
Other .....	9 <input type="radio"/>

Specify

E5. Does your friend live within ...

10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? .....	1 <input type="radio"/>
50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? .....	7 <input type="radio"/>

Same household ..... 8

GO TO F1 ←  
 Don't know ..... 9

E6. During the past 12 months, how often did you see your friend? Was it ...

Daily? .....	2 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a week? .....	3 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a month? .....	4 <input type="radio"/>
Less than once a month? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
Not at all? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>

E7. During the past 12 months, how often did you have contact by letter or telephone with your friend? Was it ...

Daily? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a week? .....	6 <input type="radio"/>
At least once a month? .....	7 <input type="radio"/>
Less than once a month? .....	8 <input type="radio"/>
Not at all? .....	9 <input type="radio"/>

**SECTION F: Household help****F1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM: Review GSS 5-1.**

Single person household . . . . 1  → GO TO F7  
 Otherwise . . . . . 2

**F2. The next questions are about people who helped with the work around your house during the past 12 months. Include only household members.**

- F3. a) Who helps with meal preparation in your household?**
- (Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)


	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?
01	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
06	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not applicable / no one in household . . . . . 97  → GO TO F4

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for meal preparation in your household?

(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)

- F4. a) Who helps with meal cleanup in your household?**
- (Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)


	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?
23	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
33	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
38	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not applicable / no one in household . . . . . 97  → GO TO F5

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for meal cleanup in your household?

(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)

- F5. a) Who helps with house cleaning and laundry in your household?**
- (Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)


	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?
45	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
50	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
55	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
60	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not applicable / no one in household . . . . . 97  → GO TO F6

c) Who is PRIMARILY responsible for house cleaning and laundry in your household?

(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)

- F6. a) Who helps with house maintenance and outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing, shovelling snow?**
- (Enter Page-Line Number of each household member - review GSS 5-1, Items 40 and 41)


	Less than 1/4	Less than 1/2	1/2 or more	All?
67	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
72	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
77	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
82	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Not applicable / no one in household . . . . . 97  → GO TO F7

(Accept multiple response only if responsibility shared equally)

88  Someone from outside household

F7. The next few questions are about any unpaid help you have given to others or received from others. Include organizations and people who are not part of your household, such as family, friends, neighbours, etc.

F8. During the past 12 months, have you done any unpaid housework outside your home such as cooking, sewing or cleaning?

Yes ..... 1

No . . . . . 2 ○ → GO TO F10

**F9. For which person or organization?**

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

**How often did you provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/>	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/>	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/>	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>
		↓		
		Specify		

F10. During the past 12 months, has anyone from outside your household helped with unpaid housework such as cooking, sewing or cleaning?

Yes ..... 3

No ..... 4  → GO TO F12

F11. Who provided such help?

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

#### **How often did they provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 <input type="radio"/>	30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	32 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	33 <input type="radio"/>	34 <input type="radio"/>	35 <input type="radio"/>	36 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	37 <input type="radio"/>	38 <input type="radio"/>	39 <input type="radio"/>	40 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	41 <input type="radio"/>	42 <input type="radio"/>	43 <input type="radio"/>	44 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	45 <input type="radio"/>	46 <input type="radio"/>	47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	49 <input type="radio"/>	50 <input type="radio"/>	51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	53 <input type="radio"/>	54 <input type="radio"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	56 <input type="radio"/>
		↓	Specify	

F12. During the past 12 months, have you helped anyone outside your household with house maintenance or outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing or shovelling snow?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ 5

No ..... 6 O → GO TO F14

**F13. For which person or organization?**

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

How often did you provide this help?

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/>	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/>	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/>	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>
		↓	Specify	

Specify

F14. During the past 12 months, has anyone from outside your household helped on an unpaid basis with house maintenance or outside work such as repairs, painting, carpentry, lawn mowing or shovelling snow?

Yes ..... 7   
 No ..... 8   
 Not applicable ..... 9

F15. Who provided such help?

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:

#### **How often did they provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 ○ →	30 ○	31 ○	32 ○
Daughter .....	33 ○ →	34 ○	35 ○	36 ○
Parent .....	37 ○ →	38 ○	39 ○	40 ○
Brother / sister .....	41 ○ →	42 ○	43 ○	44 ○
Other relative .....	45 ○ →	46 ○	47 ○	48 ○
Friend / neighbour .....	49 ○ →	50 ○	51 ○	52 ○
Organization / other .....	53 ○ →	54 ○	55 ○	56 ○
	↓			
	Specify			

Specify

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

F16. During the past 12 months, have you provided unpaid transportation to anyone outside your household, such as driving them to an appointment or shopping?

Yes ..... 1   
No ..... 2  → GO TO F18

E17 For which person or organization?

For which person?  
*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

#### **How often did you provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/>	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/>	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/>	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>

Specify

F18. During the past 12 months, has anyone from outside your household provided you with unpaid transportation, such as driving you to an appointment or shopping?

Yes ..... 3 C

No ..... 4  GO TO E20

F19. Who provided such help?

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:

**How often did they provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 <input type="radio"/>	30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	32 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	33 <input type="radio"/>	34 <input type="radio"/>	35 <input type="radio"/>	36 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	37 <input type="radio"/>	38 <input type="radio"/>	39 <input type="radio"/>	40 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	41 <input type="radio"/>	42 <input type="radio"/>	43 <input type="radio"/>	44 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	45 <input type="radio"/>	46 <input type="radio"/>	47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	49 <input type="radio"/>	50 <input type="radio"/>	51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	53 <input type="radio"/>	54 <input type="radio"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	56 <input type="radio"/>

Specify

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

F20. During the past 12 months, have you provided any unpaid childcare for anyone outside your household?

Yes ..... 5

5

No ..... 6  → GO TO F22

F21. For whose children did you provide this care?

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:

#### **How often did you provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/>	→	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/>	→	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/>	→	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/>	→	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/>	→	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>
Friend - neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/>	→	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/>	→	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>

↓

## Species

F22. During the past 12 months, have you provided any unpaid personal care, such as help bathing or dressing, to anyone outside your household?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ 7 C

7

No ..... 8  → GO TO F24

F23. For which person or organization?

(Mark all that apply)

(For each circle marked, ask:)

**How often did you provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 <input type="radio"/>	30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	32 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	33 <input type="radio"/>	34 <input type="radio"/>	35 <input type="radio"/>	36 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	37 <input type="radio"/>	38 <input type="radio"/>	39 <input type="radio"/>	40 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	41 <input type="radio"/>	42 <input type="radio"/>	43 <input type="radio"/>	44 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	45 <input type="radio"/>	46 <input type="radio"/>	47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	49 <input type="radio"/>	50 <input type="radio"/>	51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	53 <input type="radio"/>	54 <input type="radio"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	56 <input type="radio"/>

↓  
Specificity

Species,

F24. During the past 12 months, have you provided financial support to anyone outside your household?

Yes ..... 1

No ..... 2  → GO TO F26

**F25. For which person or organization?**

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

#### **How often did you provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	01 <input type="radio"/> →	02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter .....	05 <input type="radio"/> →	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent .....	09 <input type="radio"/> →	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input type="radio"/>
Brother / sister .....	13 <input type="radio"/> →	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>	16 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative .....	17 <input type="radio"/> →	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour .....	21 <input type="radio"/> →	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other .....	25 <input type="radio"/> →	26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	28 <input type="radio"/>

Specify

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

F26. During the past 12 months, has anyone from outside your household provided you with financial support?

Yes ..... 3

No . . . . . 4  → GO TO F28

F27. Who provided such help?

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

#### **How often did they provide this help?**

		At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
Son .....	29 ○ →	30 ○	31 ○	32 ○
Daughter .....	33 ○ →	34 ○	35 ○	36 ○
Parent .....	37 ○ →	38 ○	39 ○	40 ○
Brother / sister .....	41 ○ →	42 ○	43 ○	44 ○
Other relative .....	45 ○ →	46 ○	47 ○	48 ○
Friend / neighbour .....	49 ○ →	50 ○	51 ○	52 ○
Organization / other .....	53 ○ →	54 ○	55 ○	56 ○

**Specify**

F28. During the past 12 months, was someone from outside your household paid to help with ...

(If "yes" is marked, ask:)

### **How often did they provide this help?**

	No	Yes	At least once a week	At least once a month	Less than once a month
<b>Meal preparation?</b> .....	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input checked="" type="radio"/> →	03 <input type="radio"/>	04 <input type="radio"/>	05 <input type="radio"/>
<b>House cleaning or laundry?</b> ..	06 <input type="radio"/>	07 <input checked="" type="radio"/> →	08 <input type="radio"/>	09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>
<b>House maintenance or outside work?</b> .....	11 <input type="radio"/>	12 <input checked="" type="radio"/> →	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>	15 <input type="radio"/>
<b>Transportation for yourself?</b> ..	16 <input type="radio"/>	17 <input checked="" type="radio"/> →	18 <input type="radio"/>	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
<b>Grocery shopping?</b> .....	21 <input type="radio"/>	22 <input checked="" type="radio"/> →	23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>	25 <input type="radio"/>

F29. During the past 12 months, were you involved in any other unpaid volunteer work for any organizations, such as charities, teaching, fundraising, office work?

Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/>	 <b>How often did you provide this service?</b>		
	At least once a week <input type="radio"/>	At least once a month <input type="radio"/>	Less than once a month <input type="radio"/>
No ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>

F30. Because of a long-term physical condition, mental condition or health problem, are you limited in the kind or amount of activity that you can do at home, at work, at school or in other activities such as transportation or leisure?

Yes ..... 6   
No ..... 7  → GO TO G1

F31. During the past 12 months, has anyone provided you with personal care, such as help bathing or dressing?

Yes ..... 8   
No ..... 9  → GO TO G1

**F32. Who provided such help?**

*(Mark all that apply)*

(For each circle marked, ask:)

**Do they live in this household?**

		Yes	No
Spouse	.....	01 <input type="radio"/>	02 <input type="radio"/>
Son	.....	04 <input type="radio"/>	05 <input type="radio"/>
Daughter	.....	07 <input type="radio"/>	08 <input type="radio"/>
Parent	.....	10 <input type="radio"/>	11 <input type="radio"/>
Brother sister	.....	13 <input type="radio"/>	14 <input type="radio"/>
Other relative	.....	16 <input type="radio"/>	17 <input type="radio"/>
Friend / neighbour	.....	19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>
Organization / other	.....	22 <input type="radio"/>	23 <input type="radio"/>

**Specify**

**G SECTION G: Supports**

G1. In the next two questions we would like to ask you who you would turn to for help. Include spouse, relatives, friends, social services, clergy, professional counsellors, etc.

G2. Suppose you feel just a bit down or depressed, and you wanted to talk about it.

A. Whom would you turn to first for help?

- |   |       |    |
|---|-------|----|
| Spouse/partner  | ..... | 01 |
| Parent  | ..... | 02 |
| Daughter  | ..... | 03 |
| Son   | ..... | 04 |
| Sister / brother  | ..... | 05 |
| Other relative including<br>in-laws   | ..... | 06 |
| Friend  | ..... | 07 |
| Neighbour   | ..... | 08 |
| Someone you work with   | ..... | 09 |
| Church / clergy / priest  | ..... | 10 |
| God   | ..... | 11 |
| Family doctor / GP  | ..... | 12 |
| Psychologist / psychiatrist /<br>marriage counsellor / other<br>professional counsellor | ..... | 13 |
| Other   | ..... | 14 |

*Specify*

- No one ..... 15 O }  
 Don't know ..... 16 O } GO TO G3

### Specific

- No one ..... 46 O }  
 Don't know ..... 47 O } GO TO H1

B. Whom would you turn to second for help?

B. Whom would you turn to second for help?

- |                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Spouse/partner                      | 17 |
| Parent                              | 18 |
| Daughter                            | 19 |
| Son                                 | 20 |
| Sister / brother                    | 21 |
| Other relative including<br>in-laws | 22 |
| Friend                              | 23 |
| Neighbour                           | 24 |
| Someone you work with               | 25 |
| Church / clergy / priest            | 26 |
| God                                 | 27 |
| Family doctor / GP                  | 28 |

Specif.

\_\_\_\_\_

- No one ..... 31  
Don't know ..... 32

- |                                     |       |     |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Parent                              | ..... | 48○ |
| Daughter                            | ..... | 49○ |
| Son                                 | ..... | 50○ |
| Sister / brother                    | ..... | 51○ |
| Other relative including<br>in-laws | ..... | 52○ |
| Friend                              | ..... | 53○ |
| Neighbour                           | ..... | 54○ |
| Someone you work with               | ..... | 55○ |
| Church / clergy / priest            | ..... | 56○ |
| God                                 | ..... | 57○ |
| Family doctor / GP                  | ..... | 58○ |

Specif

- No one ..... 61   
Don't know ..... 62

<b>H SECTION H: Marriages</b>		<b>H14. Is this your first marriage?</b>																				
<p>H1. The next questions are about marriages and common-law partnerships. Your answers will help us better measure how family relationships are changing.</p>		Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H16																				
<p>H2. Have you ever been a partner in a common-law relationship? By this we mean partners living together as husband and wife without being legally married.</p> <p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/></p>		<b>H15. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H6. Is the respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)?																				
		Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J1 No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J3																				
<p>H3. Are you now legally married?</p> <p>Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H5 No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/></p>		<b>H16. What was the date of your first marriage?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year																				
<p>H4. Have you ever been legally married?</p> <p>Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H16 No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H37</p>		<b>H17. What was your first husband/wife's marital status before entering into that marriage?</b> Was it ... Widowed? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>																				
<p>H5. Are you living with your spouse?</p> <p>Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H8 No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/></p>		<b>H18. What was his/her date of birth?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year																				
<p>H6. Are you separated?</p> <p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H8</p>		<b>H19. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H2. Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?																				
<p>H7. When did you separate?</p> <p>3 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> 4 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>						Yes ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H22																
<p>H8. What was the date of your current marriage?</p> <p>5 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> 6 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>						<b>H20. Did you and your first spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?</b> Yes ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H22																
<p>H9. What was your spouse's marital status before entering into this marriage? Was it ...</p> <p>Widowed? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 9 <input type="radio"/></p>		<b>H21. Approximately when did you and your first husband/wife begin to live together?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year																				
<p>H10. What is your spouse's date of birth?</p> <p>    <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>      Month Year</p>				<b>H22. Did your first marriage end in ...</b> (Read categories and record month and year)																		
<p>H11. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</p> <p>Review H2. Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)?</p> <p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H14</p>		When? Month Year																				
<p>H12. Did you and your spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?</p> <p>Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H14</p>		<p>Separation and then divorce or annulment? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> { sep. 2 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> 3 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> div. ann. 4 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> 5 <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>Separation only? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>Death of spouse? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p> <p>Other ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table></p>																				
<p>H13. Approximately when did you and your current spouse begin to live together?</p> <p>    <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table>      Month Year</p>				<b>H23. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H3. Is respondent currently married (H3 = Yes)?																		
		Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H26																				

<p><b>H24. Is your current marriage your second?</b></p> <p>Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H27</p>	<p><b>H35. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H3. Is respondent currently married (H3 = Yes)? Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H38</p>											
<p><b>H25. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H6. Is respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)? Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J1 No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J3</p>	<p><b>H36. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H6. Is respondent currently separated (H6 = Yes)? Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J1 No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J3</p>											
<p><b>H26. Have you been legally married a second time?</b> Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H38</p>	<p><b>H37. Do you think you will ever marry?</b> Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H39 No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> } → GO TO J1 Don't know ..... 9 <input type="radio"/></p>											
<p><b>H27. What was the date of your second marriage?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>			<p><b>H38. Do you think you will ever marry again?</b> Yes ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> } → GO TO J1 Don't know ..... 6 <input type="radio"/></p>									
<p><b>H28. What was your second husband/wife's marital status before entering into that marriage? Was it ...</b></p> <p>Widowed? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p><b>H39. At what age would you like to get married/remarried?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> years Don't know ..... 98 <input type="radio"/></p>											
<p><b>H29. What was his/her date of birth?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>			<p><b>SECTION J: Common-law partnerships</b> <span style="float: right;">J</span></p>									
<p><b>H30. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H2. Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)? Yes ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H33</p>	<p><b>J1. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H2. Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)? Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO K1</p>											
<p><b>H31. Did you and your second spouse live common-law before entering into this marriage?</b> Yes ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO H33</p>	<p><b>J2. Are you now living with a common-law partner?</b> Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J5 No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J4</p>											
<p><b>H32. Approximately when did you and your second husband/wife begin to live together?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>			<p><b>J3. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:</b> Review H2. Has the respondent ever been a partner in a common-law relationship (H2 = Yes)? Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO K1</p>									
<p><b>H33. Did your second marriage end in ...</b> (Read categories and record month and year)</p> <table style="margin-left: 100px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">When?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Month</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year</td> </tr> </table> <p>Separation and then divorce or annulment? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> sep. [2] [3] [ ] div. / ann. [4] [5] [ ]</p> <p>Separation only? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p> <p>Death of spouse? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p> <p>Other ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p>	When?	Month	Year							<p><b>J4. Have you ever been a partner in a common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?</b> Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO J9 No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO K1</p> <p><b>J5. Approximately when did you and your partner begin to live together?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> Month Year</p> <p><b>J6. What was your partner's marital status before entering into this union? Was it ...</b></p> <p>Widowed? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Separated? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/></p>		
When?	Month	Year										
<p><b>H34. In total, how many times have you been legally married?</b> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"><tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr></table> times</p>												

J7. What is your partner's date of birth?  [ ] [ ] Month Year	SECTION K: Satisfaction  K1. Now, I am going to ask you to rate certain areas of your life.
J8. Have you had a previous common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO K1	K2. Would you describe yourself as ...  Very happy? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Somewhat happy? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Somewhat unhappy? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Very unhappy? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> No opinion ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>
J9. Approximately when did you begin your first common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  [ ] [ ] Month Year	K3. How would you describe your state of health? Compared to other persons your age, would you say it is ...  Excellent? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> Good? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> Fair? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> Poor? ..... 9 <input type="radio"/>
J10. What was that partner's marital status before entering into that union? Was it ...  Widowed? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Separated? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>	
J11. What was that partner's date of birth?  [ ] [ ] Month Year	
J12. Did this partnership end by separation or by the death of your partner?  (Record reason, month and year)	<p style="text-align: center;">When?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Month Year</p>
Separation ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → [ ] [ ] Death of partner ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> → [ ] [ ]	
J13. Have you been a partner in any other common-law relationships that were not followed by marriage?  Yes ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 9 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO K1	
J14. Approximately when did you begin your second common-law relationship that was not followed by marriage?  [ ] [ ] Month Year	
J15. What was that partner's marital status before entering into that union? Was it ...  Widowed? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Separated? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Divorced? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Single? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/>	
J16. What was that partner's date of birth?  [ ] [ ] Month Year	
J17. Did this partnership end by separation or by the death of your partner?  (Record reason, month and year)	<p style="text-align: center;">When?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Month Year</p>
Separation ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → [ ] [ ] Death of partner ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → [ ] [ ]	
J18. In total, how many times have you been a partner in common-law relationships that were not followed by marriage?  [ ] times	K

## K4. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with ...

		Is that somewhat or very?	
		Somewhat	Very
a) Your relationship with your spouse/partner, or your single status? .....	Satisfied .... 01 <input type="radio"/> → 02 <input type="radio"/>	03 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 04 <input type="radio"/> → 05 <input type="radio"/>	06 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 07 <input type="radio"/>		
b) Your relationship with your immediate family? .....	Satisfied .... 08 <input type="radio"/> → 09 <input type="radio"/>	10 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 11 <input type="radio"/> → 12 <input type="radio"/>	13 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 14 <input type="radio"/>		
c) The way housework is shared in your home? .....	Satisfied .... 15 <input type="radio"/> → 16 <input type="radio"/>	17 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 18 <input type="radio"/> → 19 <input type="radio"/>	20 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 21 <input type="radio"/>		
d) Your job or main activity? .....	Satisfied .... 22 <input type="radio"/> → 23 <input type="radio"/>	24 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 25 <input type="radio"/> → 26 <input type="radio"/>	27 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 28 <input type="radio"/>		
e) The balance between your job or main activity and family and home life? .....	Satisfied .... 29 <input type="radio"/> → 30 <input type="radio"/>	31 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 32 <input type="radio"/> → 33 <input type="radio"/>	34 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 35 <input type="radio"/>		
f) The amount of time you have to pursue other interests? .....	Satisfied .... 36 <input type="radio"/> → 37 <input type="radio"/>	38 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 39 <input type="radio"/> → 40 <input type="radio"/>	41 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 42 <input type="radio"/>		
g) Your relationship with your friends? .....	Satisfied .... 43 <input type="radio"/> → 44 <input type="radio"/>	45 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 46 <input type="radio"/> → 47 <input type="radio"/>	48 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 49 <input type="radio"/>		
h) Your current accommodation or housing? .....	Satisfied .... 50 <input type="radio"/> → 51 <input type="radio"/>	52 <input type="radio"/>	
	Dissatisfied ... 53 <input type="radio"/> → 54 <input type="radio"/>	55 <input type="radio"/>	
	No opinion ... 56 <input type="radio"/>		

Why are you dissatisfied with your accommodation or housing?

(Mark all that apply)

- Cost of mortgage-rent ..... 57
- Property taxes ..... 58
- Traffic in neighbourhood ..... 59
- Other neighbourhood dislikes ..... 60
- Accommodation too small ..... 61
- Accommodation too large ..... 62
- Would like to own ..... 63
- Building maintenance ..... 64
- Maintenance costs ..... 65
- Transportation difficulties ..... 66
- Other ..... 67

Specify


<b>L SECTION L: Classification</b>	
L1. Now a few general questions.	
L2. How many times did you move in the last 10 years, that is since January 1980?	
<input type="checkbox"/> times None ..... 00 <input type="radio"/>	
L3. When did you move to your present address?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Month      Year	
Always lived there ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L6	
L4. How far away did you last live before moving to your present address? Was it within ...	
10 km (6 miles or 10 minutes by car)? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> 50 km (30 miles or 30 minutes by car)? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> 100 km (60 miles or 1 hour by car)? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> 200 km (120 miles or 2 hours by car)? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> 400 km (240 miles or 4 hours by car)? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> 1000 km (600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> Beyond 1000 km (more than 600 miles or 10 hours by car)? ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>	
L5. What were your reasons for this move? (Mark all that apply)	
Your work ..... 01 <input type="radio"/> Other family member's work ..... 02 <input type="radio"/> To be closer to family ..... 03 <input type="radio"/> To take care of family member ..... 04 <input type="radio"/> Marriage ..... 05 <input type="radio"/> Separation ..... 06 <input type="radio"/> To move to own dwelling/independence ..... 07 <input type="radio"/> To move to a larger home ..... 08 <input type="radio"/> To move to a smaller home ..... 09 <input type="radio"/> To move to a less expensive home ..... 10 <input type="radio"/> To purchase a home ..... 11 <input type="radio"/> To move to a better neighbourhood/change in neighbourhood ..... 12 <input type="radio"/> To attend school ..... 13 <input type="radio"/> Financial reasons ..... 14 <input type="radio"/> Other ..... 15 <input type="radio"/>	
↓ Specify	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
L6. In what type of dwelling are you now living? Is it a...	
Single detached house ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Semi-detached or double (side-by-side)? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> Garden house, town house or row house? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> Duplex (one above the other)? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> Low-rise apartment (less than 5 stories)? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> High-rise apartment (5 or more stories)? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> Mobile home? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> Other ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>	
↓ Specify	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
L7. Is this dwelling owned by a member of this household?	
Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/>	
L8. What is your postal code?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
Don't know ..... 3 <input type="radio"/>	
L9. How many telephones, including extensions, are there in your dwelling?	
One ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L14 Two or more ..... 5 <input type="radio"/>	
L10. Do all the telephones have the same number?	
Yes ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L14 No ..... 7 <input type="radio"/>	
L11. How many different numbers are there?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	
L12. Are any of these numbers for business use only?	
Yes ..... 8 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 9 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L14	
L13. How many are for business use only?	
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	

## L14. In what country were you born?

Canada 1○ → In which province or territory?

- |                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Newfoundland .....       | 01 ○ |
| Prince Edward Island ..  | 02 ○ |
| Nova Scotia .....        | 03 ○ |
| New Brunswick .....      | 04 ○ |
| Quebec .....             | 05 ○ |
| Ontario .....            | 06 ○ |
| Manitoba .....           | 07 ○ |
| Saskatchewan .....       | 08 ○ |
| Alberta .....            | 09 ○ |
| British Columbia .....   | 10 ○ |
| Yukon Territory .....    | 11 ○ |
| Northwest Territories .. | 12 ○ |
- GO      TO      L16

Country outside Canada

2○

Specify

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## L15. In what year did you first immigrate to Canada?

--	--	--

Canadian citizen by birth ..... 997○

## L16. What is your date of birth?

			1			
--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Day      Month      Year

## L17. What language did you first speak in childhood?

(Accept multiple response only if languages were used equally)

Do you still understand that/those language(s)?

Yes      No

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| English .....   | 3 ○                |
| French .....    | 4 ○ → 03○      04○ |
| Italian .....   | 5 ○ → 05○      06○ |
| German .....    | 6 ○ → 07○      08○ |
| Ukrainian ..... | 7 ○ → 09○      10○ |
| Other .....     | 8 ○ → 11○      12○ |

Specify

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## L18. What language do you speak most often at home?

(Accept multiple response only if languages are spoken equally.)

- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| English ..... | 1○ |
| French .....  | 2○ |
| Italian ..... | 3○ |
| Chinese ..... | 4○ |
| German .....  | 5○ |
| Other .....   | 6○ |

↓ Specify

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

## L19. Excluding kindergarten, how many years of elementary and high school education have you successfully completed?

- |                      |      |             |
|----------------------|------|-------------|
| No schooling .....   | 01 ○ | → GO TO L23 |
| One to five years .. | 02 ○ | → GO TO L21 |
| Six .....            | 03 ○ |             |
| Seven .....          | 04 ○ |             |
| Eight .....          | 05 ○ |             |
| Nine .....           | 06 ○ |             |
| Ten .....            | 07 ○ |             |
| Eleven .....         | 08 ○ |             |
| Twelve .....         | 09 ○ |             |
| Thirteen .....       | 10 ○ |             |

## L20. Have you graduated from high school?

- |           |    |
|-----------|----|
| Yes ..... | 1○ |
| No .....  | 2○ |

## L21. Have you had any further schooling beyond elementary/high school?

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Yes ..... | 3○             |
| No .....  | 4○ → GO TO L23 |

L22. What is the highest level of education that you have attained?		L25. To which ethnic or cultural group do you or your ancestors belong? Would it be ... <i>(Accept multiple responses)</i>	
Masters or earned doctorate	1 <input type="radio"/>	English?	02 <input type="radio"/>
Bachelor or undergraduate degree, or teacher's college	2 <input type="radio"/>	Irish?	03 <input type="radio"/>
Diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP or nursing school	3 <input type="radio"/>	Scottish?	04 <input type="radio"/>
Diploma or certificate from trade, technical or vocational school, or business college	4 <input type="radio"/>	French?	01 <input type="radio"/>
Some university	5 <input type="radio"/>	German?	05 <input type="radio"/>
Some community college, CEGEP or nursing school	6 <input type="radio"/>	Italian?	06 <input type="radio"/>
Some trade, technical or vocational school, or business college	7 <input type="radio"/>	Ukrainian?	07 <input type="radio"/>
Other	8 <input type="radio"/>	Other	08 <input type="radio"/>
Specify		Specify	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/> Canadian (Probe) ..... 09 <input type="radio"/> Don't know ..... 10 <input type="radio"/>	
L26. During the past 12 months, what best describes your MAIN activity? Were you mainly ...			
<p>Working at a job or business? ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L29</p> <p>Looking for work? ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L28</p> <p>A student? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Keeping house? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Retired? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L28</p> <p>Other ..... 6 <input type="radio"/></p>			
Specify			
<input type="text"/>			
L27. Were you studying full-time or part-time?			
<p>Full-time ..... 7 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Part-time ..... 8 <input type="radio"/></p>			
L28. Did you have a job or were you self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?			
<p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L36</p>			
L29. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity/paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did you do any work at a job or business?			
<input type="text"/> 3 <input type="text"/> weeks			
L30. During those weeks, how many hours per week did you usually work?			
<input type="text"/> 4 <input type="text"/> hours			
L31. Did you regularly work evening or night shifts?			
<p>Yes ..... 5 <input type="radio"/></p> <p>No ..... 6 <input type="radio"/></p>			

<p>L32. Did you regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?</p> <p>Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/></p>	<p>L39. Was he/she studying full-time or part-time?</p> <p>Full-time ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> Part-time ..... 2 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>L33. For whom did you work for the longest time during the past 12 months? (Name of business, government department or agency, or person)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>L40. Did your spouse have a job or was he/she self-employed at any time during the past 12 months?</p> <p>Yes ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L45</p>
<p>L34. What kind of business, industry or service was this? (Give full description: e.g. paper box manufacturing, retail shoe store, municipal board of education)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>L41. Including vacation, illness, strikes, lock-outs and maternity/paternity leave, for how many weeks during the past 12 months did he/she do any work at a job or business?</p> <p>[REDACTED] weeks</p>
<p>L35. What kind of work were you doing? (Give full description: e.g. accounts clerk, dairy farmer, primary school teacher)</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>L42. During those weeks, how many hours per week did he/she usually work?</p> <p>[REDACTED] hours</p>
<p>L36. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM: Review H5 and J2. Is the respondent living with his/her spouse or partner (H5 = Yes or J2 = Yes)?</p>	<p>L43. Did he/she regularly work evening or night shifts?</p> <p>Yes ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 8 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L46</p>	<p>L44. Did he/she regularly work on Saturday or Sunday?</p> <p>Yes ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> No ..... 2 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>L37. The next few questions are about your spouse/partner.</p>	<p>L45. What is the highest level of education your spouse attained?</p>
<p>L38. During the past 12 months, what best describes your spouse's MAIN activity? Was he/she mainly ...</p>	<p>Masters or earned doctorate ..... 01 <input type="radio"/> Bachelor or undergraduate degree, or teacher's college ..... 02 <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>Working at a job or business? ..... 3 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L41 Looking for work? ..... 4 <input type="radio"/> → GO TO L40 A student? ..... 5 <input type="radio"/> Keeping house? ..... 6 <input type="radio"/> Retired? ..... 7 <input type="radio"/> } GO TO L40 Other ..... 8 <input type="radio"/>  Specify [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>	<p>Diploma or certificate from community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 03 <input type="radio"/> Diploma or certificate from trade, technical or vocational school, or business college ..... 04 <input type="radio"/> Some university ..... 05 <input type="radio"/> Some community college, CEGEP or nursing school ..... 06 <input type="radio"/> Some trade, technical or vocational school, or business college ..... 07 <input type="radio"/> Secondary/high school graduation ..... 08 <input type="radio"/> Some secondary/high school ..... 09 <input type="radio"/> Elementary school (some or completed) ..... 10 <input type="radio"/> No schooling ..... 11 <input type="radio"/> Other ..... 12 <input type="radio"/> Specify [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p>

L46. During 1989, did you receive income ...				L50. What is your best estimate of the total income of all household members from all sources in 1989? Was the total household income ...
		Yes	No	
a) From wages, salary or self-employment? ....	1 <input type="radio"/>	2 <input type="radio"/>		Less than \$5,000? 09 <input type="radio"/>
b) From government, such as Family Allowance, Unemployment Insurance, Social Assistance, Canada or Quebec Pension Plan or Old Age Security? ..	3 <input type="radio"/>	4 <input type="radio"/>		Less than \$10,000? 05 <input type="radio"/> \$5,000 and more? 10 <input type="radio"/>
c) From interest, dividends, investments or private pensions? .....	5 <input type="radio"/>	6 <input type="radio"/>		Less than \$20,000? 01 <input type="radio"/> \$10,000 and more? 06 <input type="radio"/> \$15,000 and more? 12 <input type="radio"/>
d) From any other sources, such as alimony, scholarships, etc.? ...	7 <input type="radio"/>	8 <input type="radio"/>		Less than \$30,000? 13 <input type="radio"/> \$30,000 and more? 14 <input type="radio"/>
				\$20,000 and more? 02 <input type="radio"/> \$40,000 and more? 08 <input type="radio"/> Less than \$60,000? 15 <input type="radio"/> \$60,000 to \$79,999? 16 <input type="radio"/> \$80,000 and more? 17 <input type="radio"/>
L47. What is your best estimate of your total personal income in 1989 from all sources, including those just mentioned?				No income 03 <input type="radio"/> Don't know .. 04 <input type="radio"/>
Income ..... 1 <input type="radio"/> → \$ <input type="text"/> .00 No income ... 2 <input type="radio"/> Don't know ... 3 <input type="radio"/>				
L48. Including yourself, how many persons in your household received income from any source, during 1989?				<input type="text"/> persons
L49. INTERVIEWER CHECK ITEM:				
Review L48.				
If L48 =01 .....		4 <input type="radio"/>	→ GO TO M1	
Otherwise .....		5 <input type="radio"/>		







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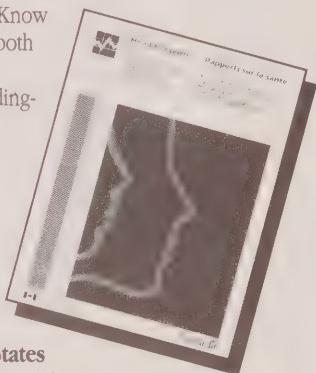
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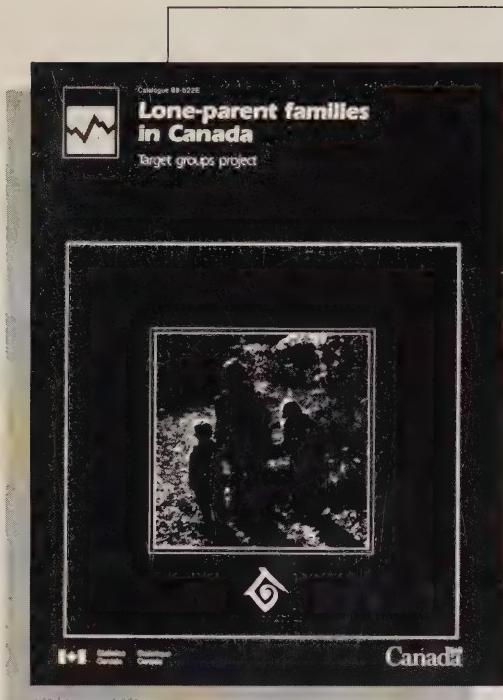
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